There'll be no Senate reorganization, says Joker

Story on PAGE A2

Strictly business, no politics for 'Boss'?

MANIWALA NAMAN KAYO!

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT seemed like a skit straight out of "Eat Bulaga," the popular noontime TV show which made Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III a household name.

STRICTLY/A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SEC names interim receiver for CAP

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has appointed an interim receiver for College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. because of the pre-need firm's failure on May 15 to infuse at least P2 billion into its trust fund. A trust fund is money set aside to pay the future benefits of plan holders.

SEC/A18

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, May 23, 2003 ★★ 78 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 164 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Gloria sticks to decision not to run

Lakas supporters say she should change her mind

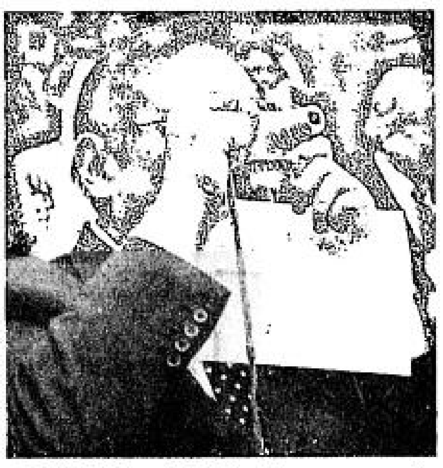
By Juliet Labog-Javellana

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo insists that she will not run in next year's presidential election, but her supporters believe that she will change her mind because of her triumphant state visit to the United States.

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who cochairs the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party with Ms Macapagal, said the political controversy could have been nipped in the bud if the President's answer to the question about changing her mind on running was more direct. "Sometimes, a 'no comment' means yes," said De Venecia, who is also part of the President's delegation.

At a press conference here yesterday, Ms Macapagal gave a more categorical answer. "You know I feel so comfortable (about) not being a candidate for president. I'd been able to make so many unpopular but correct decisions so I think I should stick to that decision," Ms Maca-

GLORIA/A16



ERNIE U SARMIENTO

CAMERA bug, Mr. Mike Arroyo records the moment at the law school of Fordham University.

Cardinal's imprimatur seen as key to GMA bid

By Carlito Pablo

AN ENDORSEMENT from Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin will significantly influence President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision on whether she should run in the 2004 elections, administration sources said yesterday.

Sources said the politically savvy cardinal may make known his preference for next year's elections on or before he retires on Aug. 31, his 75th birthday.

"Things will be clearer come August," a source said.

Before the President left for her state visit to the United States, she and her husband, Mr. Mike Arroyo, had visited Sin at his residence, Villa San Miguel, which provoked the speculation that Sin was key to the President's decision to run in the presidential race.

The First Couple's visit to the cardinal had stirred vigorous talk in political circles that Sin may have, in fact, urged Ms Macapagal to run.

Sought for comment, Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on ecclesiastical affairs, said the First Couple's visit was either on the

CARDINAL'S/A16

York City's Jesuit Univ

IN THE HISTORY of Fordham University, it was the first time that it conferred the same honorary doctorate of laws on a father, President Diosdado Macapagal, and a generation later, on his daughter Gloria. The latter was cited for her "intelligent and courageous leadership" in the fight against terrorism. Fordham president Rev. Joseph O' Hare (in photo) said that all but two Philippine Presidents—Marcos and Estrada—had been similarly honored. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Model father pleads guilty to killing Fil-Am wife, mother

LAS VEGAS—A former father of the year, who is on trial for murdering his Filipino-American wife, abruptly ended the proceedings on Wednesday by pleading guilty to killing her—and his mother.

The 57-year-old William "Bill" Rundle had been on trial for more than a week in Clark County District Court when he switched his plea to guilty.

In exchange for pleading guilty to both killings, the state will recommend that Rundle serve life in prison without the possibility of parole, court

MODEL/A16

Fordham U honors GMA for tough anti-terror stance

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—The same tough anti-terror stance that won profuse praise from US President George W. Bush has earned for President Macapagal-Arroyo a historic honorary degree from Fordham University.

The Jesuit-run Ivy League school founded in 1841 conferred Wednesday on Ms Macapagal the honorary degree of doctor of laws—the same award given to her father 39 years earlier—for her "intelligent and courageous leadership."

Part of the citation read by Fordham president Rev. Joseph O'Hare, S.J., a former teacher at the Ateneo de Manila University, said: "In her inaugural address, President Macapagal-Arroyo predicted that the 21st century would be a time of peril and opportunity. Eight months later, on Sept. 11, 2001, the attack on New York City awakened the world to the threat of international terrorism. Since that time, the Philippines, under the leadership of its President, has proven to be one of the major allies of the United States in this new struggle for the defense of civilization."

O'Hare lauded Ms Macapagal for "speaking with candor and courage" when the United States began building an international coalition against international terrorism.

He said it was the first time the Fordham honorary degree was conferred twice in the same family. On Oct. 9, 1964, Ms Macapagal

FORDHAM/A17

'Dirty Dozen' hunted in South

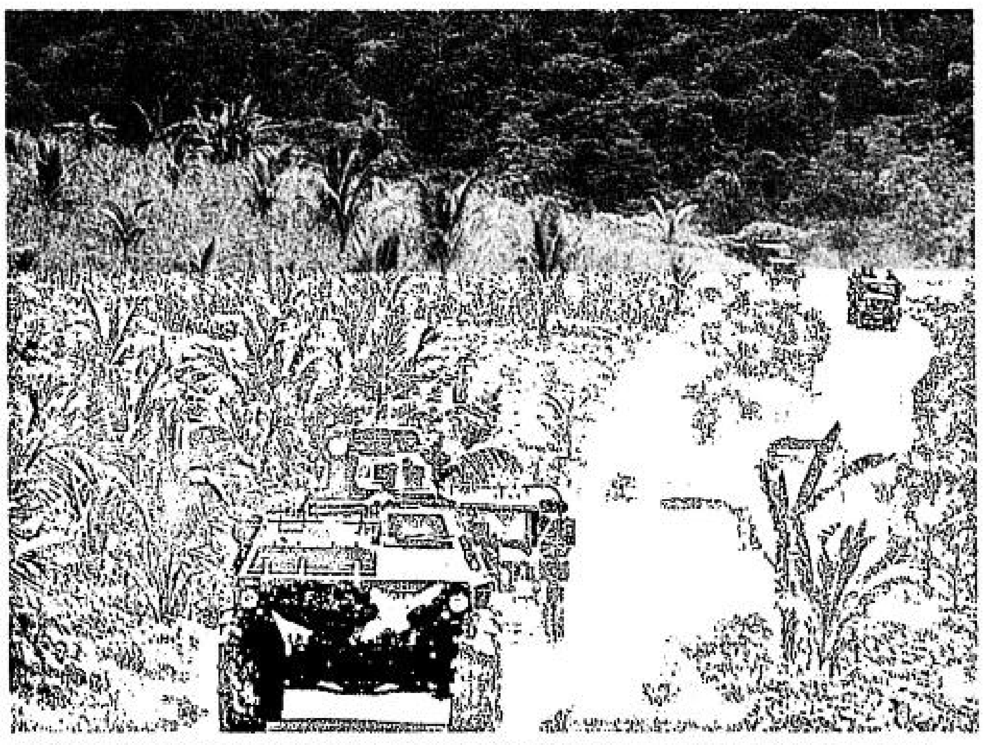
By Charlie C. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Martin Marfil *in Manila*

COTABATO CITY—The military yesterday said it was on the lookout for at least 12 foreign nationals believed to be on suicide bombing missions in south-central Mindanao. All of them are linked to the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiya group behind the Bali bombing last October.

Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the presence of the 10 Indonesians and two Pakistanis had been monitored by the intelligence community.

Senga said the information was of "A-1" quality, meaning it was credible, but he declined to give more details. Senga did say that brigade and battalion commanders have been briefed about the foreign nationals, whom he called JI's "Dirty Dozen."

'DIRTY DOZEN/A18



EDGING toward enemy territory in Mt. Puarai, Pantao-Ragat, Lanao del Norte, an Army convoy rumbles down a long and winding road through the jungle as the military offensive ordered by President Macapagal against the MILF enters its sixth day. EDWIN BACASMAS

Fresh offensives dash hopes of home

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

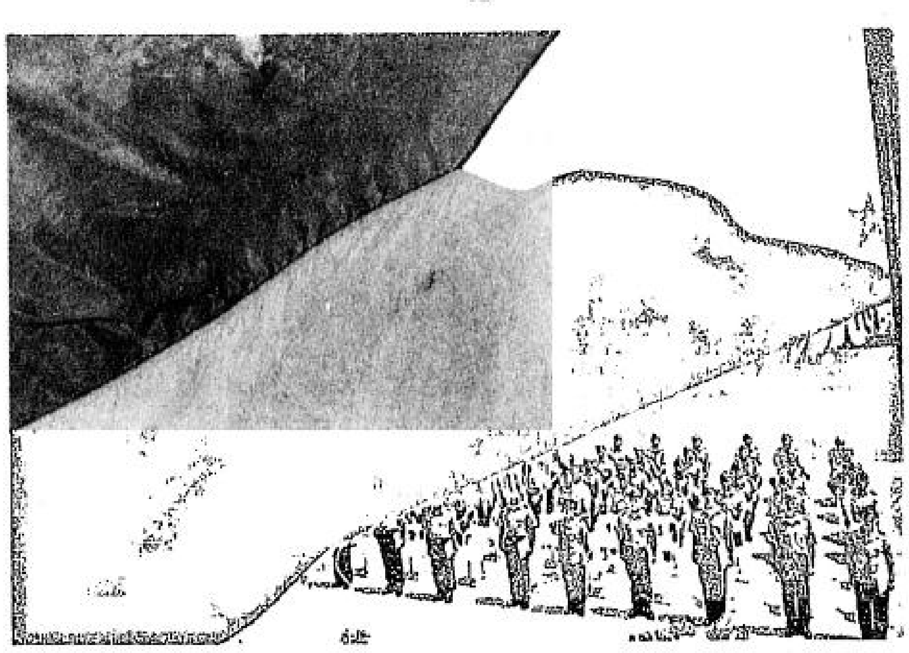
PIKIT, North Cotabato—Akmad had been longing to return to his native Barangay Bulod, but his hopes crumbled last week when President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the military to mount a fresh offensive against "terrorist cells" in Mindanao.

The 40-year-old Akmad, grown weary of living in a filthy evacuation center since February, was thinking of heading home after military operations subside in the Buliok complex.

"But I don't think we can do that now," he said. "We heard on radio that the President declared another all-out war against the MILF. This means that our lives and property will be affected again."

Akmad speaks for the dashed

FRESH/A15



THE OTHER side of the insurgency ends happily on Thursday at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, with the graduation from an officer course of 60 former MNLF members who will now be integrated into the AFP to be deployed in Mindanao. JOAN BONDOC

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/23/03

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Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Joker: No Senate shake-up

By Michael Lim Ubac

THERE will be no reorganization in the Senate, much less a takeover by the minority, when the chamber resumes its sessions on Monday, Sen. Joker Arroyo declared yesterday.

Arroyo, one of 13 members of the ruling majority coalition, said the minority of 10 senators simply did not have the numbers to wrest control of the Senate leadership.

"Come Monday, the numbers game is not in favor of the minority," said Arroyo, whose refusal to initiate a probe into allegations of extortion involving Malacañang officials in the controversial Naia Terminal 3 project precipitated the latest attempt to shake up the Senate leadership. **(See related story.)**

Opposition Sen. John Osmeña on Wednesday moved to declare a vacancy in all the Senate committees because Arroyo, the chair of the blue ribbon committee, "(did) not want to conduct a hearing" and the other committees "were not functioning".

Before the Osmeña motion could be voted on, however, Sen. Juan Flavier, who was presiding in the absence of Senate President Franklin Drilon, suspended the session.

When the the session resumed at 6:45 p.m., only Flavier and Majority Leader Loren Legarda remained from the majority camp.

Arroyo said the minority tried to seek a reorganization of all the Senate committees "because they thought they have the numbers."

But if it had come to a real showdown last Wednesday, they would not have succeeded "because we also had around two in reserve who were waiting to come to our aid," he said.

Arroyo said that by Monday when sessions resume, Drilon and opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara would be back from the United States.

"So the reckoning (on Wednesday) was we were 20. Come Monday, we would be 22, the majority would be 12," he said.

Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., who has been on a prolonged leave of absence because of illness, was already in the country, Arroyo said.

Another ailing administration senator, Renato Cayetano, is still in the US, while the 24th senator—Blas Ople—has resigned to take over the foreign affairs portfolio.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the minority had no intention of grabbing power from the majority.

"We don't have plans, except to insist that Senate committees must function, otherwise the Senate is not functioning," he said

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III denied that he was gunning for the blue ribbon committee.

He said he only wanted the Senate to probe the allegations.

He also denied that the opposition was out to get Palace officials, as Arroyo was supposed to have said.

"We're not going after anybody," he said, explaining that the real issue was the privilege of a senator to expose irregularities, and the responsibility of a Senate committee to abide by the resolution of the entire body.

Arroyo accused the minority of resorting to a "shotgun" reorganization of the Senate.

"When you reorganize the Senate, there is always a gentleman's agreement that you inform the leadership in advance that you will initiate a reorganization," he said.

"But there can be no shotgun reorganization because it catches the other side by surprise. Never a showdown on the floor. It has only happened here in the 12th Congress that there are shotgun moves for reorganization," he said.

He conceded that administration senators' leaving the session hall after Flavier suspended the session was a "parliamentary trick."

"That's fair, they made a surprise move, so we make a surprise move. All is fair in love and war and politics. We have no apologies for that," he said.

Piatco joins call for probe by senators

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE CONTROVERSIAL contractor of the hexed Naia Terminal 3 project has joined the chorus demanding a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee investigation of the alleged attempt by Malacañang officials to extort money from the German investor in the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco).

Frank Chavez, Piatco's lead counsel, said yesterday a Senate probe would give Piatco "the chance to elaborate on the conspiracy" the firm raised earlier.

Chavez reminded Sen. Joker Arroyo, the committee chair who has refused to launch an investigation on legal grounds, that the Senate was not being called upon to "judge the guilt or innocence of persons it may summon to the hearing."

"Neither is it required to rule on the admissibility as evidence of the taped conversation," said Chavez.

Arroyo informed the Senate on Wednesday that his committee could not investigate because the evidence, a tape recording of an alleged conversation between Palace aides and lawyers and officials of Fraport, Piatco's German partners, had been illegally acquired.

Saying he would not allow his committee to be used in a fishing expedition, Arroyo said his hands were tied because using an illegal wiretap as evidence would knowingly violate the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

Yesterday, Arroyo said he would only start a probe if opposition senators could show evidence independent of the taped conversation.

"If they have other evidence, then I will hear the case. The worse that could happen to any lawyer is to be told that he does not know the law," he said.

"They just want to use me as a patsy. I'll be the one looking for (the evidence for) them, and that's not right," he said.

Chavez, a former solicitor general, argued that the role of the blue ribbon committee was to identify and define the "parameters" of the Anti-Wiretapping Law. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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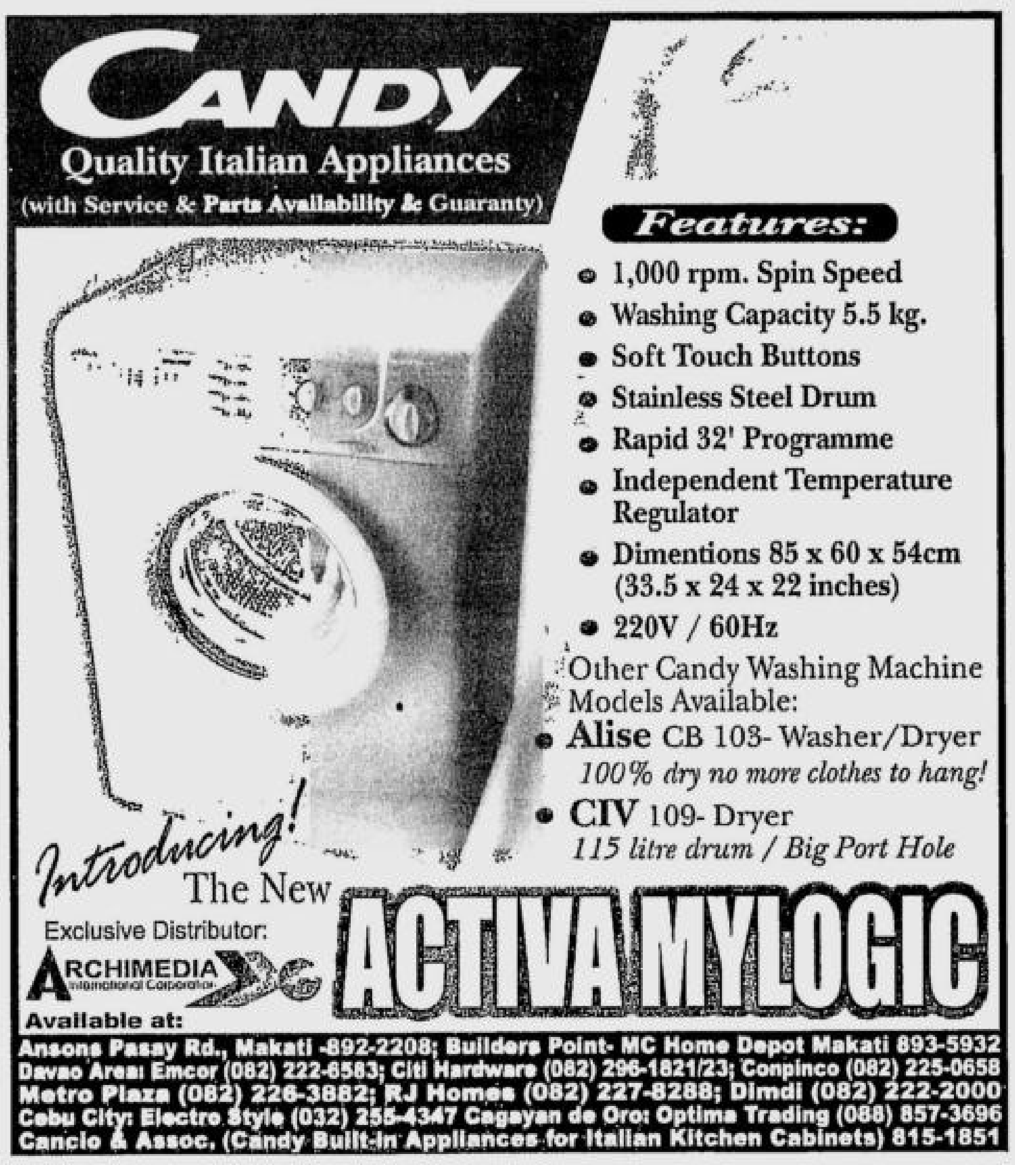
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DND: Claimants fortifying Spratly isles

COUNTRIES disputing ownership of the Spratly group of islands in the South China Sea have stopped occupying new islands but have considerably fortified and improved their facilities already there, according to the Department of National Defense .

The Spratlys and other contested South China Sea areas are considered a potential flash point for conflict among six Asian countries competing for rich fishing grounds and potential undersea oil and gas reserves.

The region also straddles one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

The confidential assessment report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, said Philippine patrols observed new buildings and improved facilities at some of the islands, particularly those being claimed by Vietnam.

It did not name the other countries, which it said also had made improvements.

"Complementing the construction of additional buildings and improvement of facilities was the fortification of island defenses," the report said.

The government continues to be concerned with activities by China around Spratly areas claimed by the Philippines.

Last September, a patrol team monitored a Chinese marker—a green-and-gray cylindrical buoy—over a Philippine-claimed atoll, the report said.

Two Chinese fishing boats and six dinghies were seen scattered around the area that the Philippines calls the Quirino Atoll.

In the same month, Philippine patrols observed two huge Chinese navy ships anchored in a lagoon at Mischief Reef, another Spratly area claimed by both China and the Philippines, according to the assessment. China fortified structures with what looked like communications discs on the reef in 1998, prompting protests from the Philippines.

Aside from China, Vietnam and the Philippines, the Spratlys are also claimed in whole or in part by Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Last November, China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations signed a landmark but non-binding accord forbidding construction of new structures on uninhabited South China Sea islands to prevent conflict.

The accord urged countries with conflicting territorial claims to avoid actions that could lead to a conflict or heighten tension.

While many lauded the accord, some Asian officials questioned whether it was strong enough to deter countries with territorial claims from expanding their presence in the contested territories. *AP*

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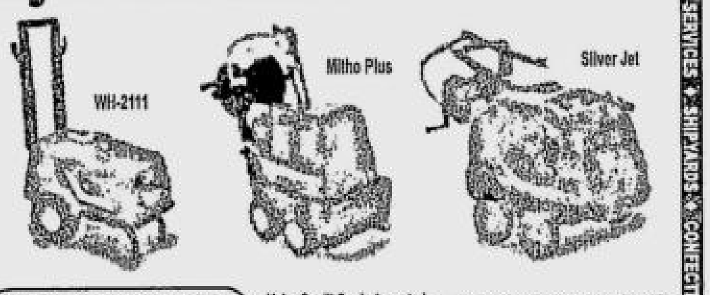

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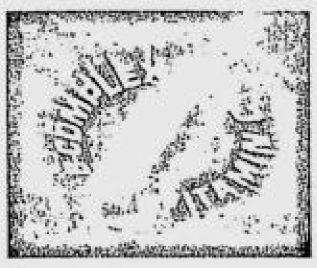

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* from an article by M.P. Macapinlac, M.D., Ph.D.

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FOUNDATION FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

Mindanao flood damage: ₱38M

COTABATO CITY—Floods triggered by days of continuous rains have damaged some P37.8 million worth of crops in Maguindanao, the provincial agriculture office said yesterday.

Salik Panalunsong, Maguindanao provincial agriculturist, said the floods affected at least 4,104 farmers in 16 of Maguindanao's 21 towns.

"We expect the crop damage to (increase) because other municipalities have not reported to my office yet and the rains are continuing," Panalunsong said.

Citing reports from municipal agriculture officers, Panalunsong said the hardest hit areas were SK Pendatun and Kabuntalan, which are both near the Liguasan marsh area.

In terms of estimated losses, however, Pagagawan town suffered the most with P3.65 million worth of crops lost, followed by North Upi with P2.77 million in losses.

In three towns of North Cotabato and in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, the Department of Agriculture in Central Mindanao said damage to crops at P5.74 million.

In General Santos City, 42 houses were destroyed while 77 other structures were damaged when giant waves battered coastal villages there on Sunday morning.

No casualties were reported but the City Disaster Coordinating Council said 97 families comprising about 400 persons were displaced. Estimated damage was placed at P1 million.

The affected villages were Bula, Dadiangas South, Labangal and Dadiangas West.

Rains started falling here last Friday afternoon and continued until Sunday morning. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Aquiles Z. Zonio, with a report from Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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IMMUNOLOGY EXPERT GIVES PERSPECTIVE ON SARS

Hell hath no fury like a paranoid army of newbie health nuts in this age of SARS. Because of this deadly virus, frenzied groups have been emptying drugstore shelves of hand sanitizers, alcohol, vitamins and, of course, masks. Certainly, this epidemic has caused everyone to become hoarders of products that have any protective value against SARS. With the Philippines recently categorized as the ninth country in the world as "SARS-infected," these actions come as no surprise. On the other hand, such dread has caused a good thing –people no longer take for granted simple hygienic practices like washing one's hands, not rubbing one's eyes, not spitting anywhere they please, and so on. Also, the SARS scare has turned most, if not all, people into being more conscious about strengthening their immune system, downing vitamin C in double or triple dosages.

Now, while those may serve as noticeable improvements in hygiene and health, are they enough to counter a virus so lethal and invisible? Certainly, no one can really say for sure. At least, not yet. As people continuously seek every possible edge against an unpredictable disease, there is still a looming amount of panic lingering around despite the masks, hand cleansers and vitamins when a weary traveler sneezes violently in the MRT. So, what are we to do?

Well, we can turn to the doctor that's been with us since the day we were conceived: Our immune system.

"It is the best doctor," says Dr. Jau-Fei Chen, leading advocate of the science she pioneered, ***Nutritional Immunology*** **(NI)**. *"Our body's immune system is the best defense against ailments like SARS and other viral infections –but only if it is properly nourished."*

Dr. Chen believes that prevention is still better than cure as the body is equipped with a powerful immune system – a defense mechanism which can be strengthened and improved through proper nourishment and care. Nutritional Immunology, the science that Dr. Chen researched on for years since her doctoral studying days, makes use of proper nutrition to help prevent ailments by enhancing the immune system. This works by building the immune system on a day-to-day basis with plant-based foods such as fruits and vegetables that contain phytochemicals that destroys invading agents, consumes harmful pathogens, and battles pollutants and toxins. For instance, phytochemicals can inhibit the growth of cancers cells; prevent the buildup of dietary fat, reduce the probability of colon, breast, and prostate cancers, decrease the growth of microorganisms, and improve blood lipids and serum cholesterol levels.

Since SARS is a viral infection, the virus it reproduces attacks host cells within our bodies. Consequently, when a virus enters our body, a host of immune defenses will be initiated, like interferon, cytotoxic cells, macrophages, lymphokines and antibodies working together with the complement system defending us from all viral attacks. And since there are currently no effective anti-viral drugs against SARS, a properly nourished immune system is the best line of defense available.

With this, Dr. Chen advices that people should eat more plant foods, such as vegetables and fruits, to enhance the immune system. *"Fruits and vegetables are the best source of polysaccharides and phytonutrients which are known to build up the body's immunity against viral attacks and other pathogens,"* informs the doctor. *"Best of all, these fruits and vegetables are available just around the corner at your neighborhood supermarkets. And you can eat as much as you want without any side effects."* Specially, in stressful times like these, it pays off to fortify your immune system because when stress levels are high our *"bodies produce corticosteroid which suppresses your immune system. This makes you more prone to cancer and all sorts of infections,"* says Dr. Chen. It is therefore advisable to understand how stress affects our health in combating SARS because if our bodies are ridden with fatigue, we increase the chances of getting sick despite the little precautions we take.

The problem is, we, especially those of us who believe we are healthy and strong, take stress for granted, believing that it's something we can shrug off with vitamins and a few naps. The truth is, however, stress can be quite deadly. Dr. Chen proves this further by saying that, *"If you are really stressed out, your body can produce enough corticosteroids to make you 100 times more prone to getting cancer."*

How people manage stress levels and keep themselves in good shape may determine why some people die of SARS and others actually survive. In fact, this applies to simple ailments like the common flu, wherein, like the SARS virus, no cure has been discovered yet. "In the United States, about 36,000 people die of flu every year," reinforces Dr. Chen. *"What is scary about SARS though is our lack of understanding about it."*

Bottom line is: the weaker the immune system, the more susceptible a person is to catching the SARS virus. In this respect, it is best to make sure to get adequate amounts of sleep, maintain a good diet, exercise regularly (if possible) and, surprisingly, *"don't get angry, don't worry and be happy. Don't get stressed out with anything. It's not worth it,"* advises Dr. Chen. The reason for such advise is that negative feelings actually go beyond the strain of facial muscles and repelled bystanders –negative feeling induce stress.

This is probably the reason why Dr. Chen is always caught smiling and projecting a warm image during her conference lectures (she practices what she preaches). And this *May 25, 2003,* Sunday, Dr. Jau-Fei Chen, will be visiting Manila at the Grand Ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko to share *Nutritional Immunology* to everyone who wants that added edge in combating the SARS virus. She will also be talking about how *Nutritional Immunology* can strengthen the body against most illnesses that plague us. So, take a breather from that mask and let Dr. Chen nourish your outlook in health.

"Our body's immune system is the best defense against ailments like SARS and other viral infections –but only if it is properly nourished."

*The **NUTRITIONAL IMMUNOLOGY CONFERENCE** will be held on May 25, 2003 from 2-4 pm at the Grand Ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Manila. Registration starts at 1 pm. Admission is **FREE**!*

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Despite de-listing, traveling Pinoys still feel SARS stigma

By Norman Bordadora

THE WORLD Health Organization's removal of the Philippines from its list of SARS-affected countries had yet to produce the desired result of lifting the travel advisories and restrictions against its nationals by other countries.

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday admitted that countries like Taiwan, Lebanon and Thailand continued to impose administrative measures at their ports of entry on travelers coming from the Philippines.

Foreign Undersecretary Delia Albert said Taiwan continues to impose a 10-day mandatory quarantine on arriving Filipinos, while Lebanon and Thailand still demanded certificates of "good health" upon entry into their territories.

"I myself would have to get that certificate and present it upon entry when I go to Bangkok next month," Albert told reporters.

Albert, however, said the country's diplomatic outposts abroad have been working to have the SARS advisories and restrictions against the Philippines lifted following its delisting by the WHO.

The WHO announced on Wednesday said it was removing the Philippines from its list of SARS-afflicted countries. Even when the country was still battling its cases of SARS, the WHO said it never advised against travel to the Philippines.

Major front

While local SARS transmission may have been checked, the country's airports and seaports have become the major "battlefront" in the fight against the deadly disease.

Even so, the Department of Health continued to strengthen its defenses in the provinces in case "imported SARS cases" slipped into rural areas undetected.

Also yesterday, the DOH assured the public it had the funds to finish construction of 16 regional SARS reference centers, each complete with 10 isolation rooms.

"We are working hard to prevent the entry of new imported SARS cases. We have beefed up the screening of people entering through our airports and seaports," said Dr. Maria Consorcia Lim-Quizon, head of the National Epidemiology Center.

The World Health Organization this week removed the country from its list of SARS-infected countries, after 20 days elapsed without a new SARS case being reported.

Four of the country's 12 SARS cases had been imported. Those classified as second-level or local transmissions were promptly isolated in hospitals.

Quizon said the challenge now is to ensure that the country stays out of the WHO list by stopping the entry of SARS patients from SARS-infected countries.

"The countdown for our SARS-free days starts," she said, adding the public and health workers should not lower their guard now that the country is off the WHO list.

Isolation rooms

But should the dreaded disease return, Quizon said, 16 regional hospitals were being readied to take in SARS patients.

She said the DOH has budgeted P1.5 million for each hospital to put up isolation rooms.

"Tertiary hospitals should really have isolation rooms," she said, adding that these rooms could also be used to isolate patients with AIDS and other highly infectious diseases.

She said there should be no problem with the availability of the P1 billion the President had allotted for SARS, but the DOH had not yet made a request for the release of the money because they were still using their regular funds.

Opportunities

Former President Fidel Ramos, meanwhile, said Thursday the SARS outbreak in neighboring Asian countries was providing economic opportunities for the Philippines.

Speaking to local businessmen, Ramos remarked that the effect of SARS on the Philippines seemed to be only "marginal."

At the same time, the spread of SARS in other countries "is an opportunity for us to supply the goods and services [needed by] the very severely-affected economies."

He cited the export of fruits and other agricultural goods. "Even the SARS epidemic has helped along our exports. Buyers who normally go to Hong Kong and China have been sourcing their needs here," Ramos told reporters.

He did not provide any figures or forecasts, however. *With an AFP report*

Finn with suspected SARS not yet cleared

HELSINKI—A test has failed to confirm if a young Finnish man, just back from a trip to the Philippines, had fallen ill with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, doctors said Thursday.

"The result of the first test was negative, and the second test was taken yesterday, but we don't have the results yet," said Ermo Haavisto, chief medical director at Kotka Central Hospital.

According to WHO guidelines, positive results from two different kinds of tests are needed to confirm if a patient had SARS.

Because of his symptoms and X-rays, however, the patient remains classified as a probable SARS case, Haavisto said.

The 27-year-old Finn fell ill hours after returning from a long stay in the Philippines, and was put in quarantine upon seeking medical help in his hometown of Kotka, 120 km east of Helsinki.

As the man now is in normal condition, he will be discharged soon, Haavisto said.

This is the second probable SARS case in Finland, after a young Finn returning from Toronto fell ill and was hospitalized at the end of April in the city of Turku with SARS symptoms. While the first test confirmed that he had the disease, the second test failed to do so. *AFP*

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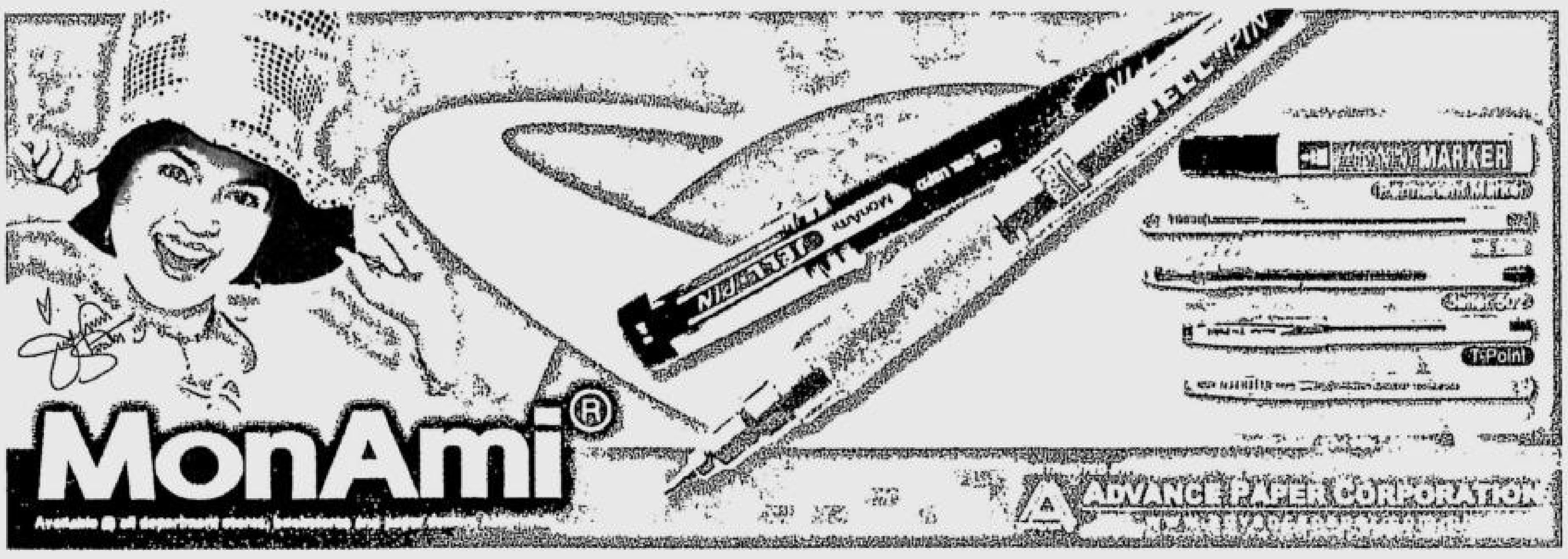
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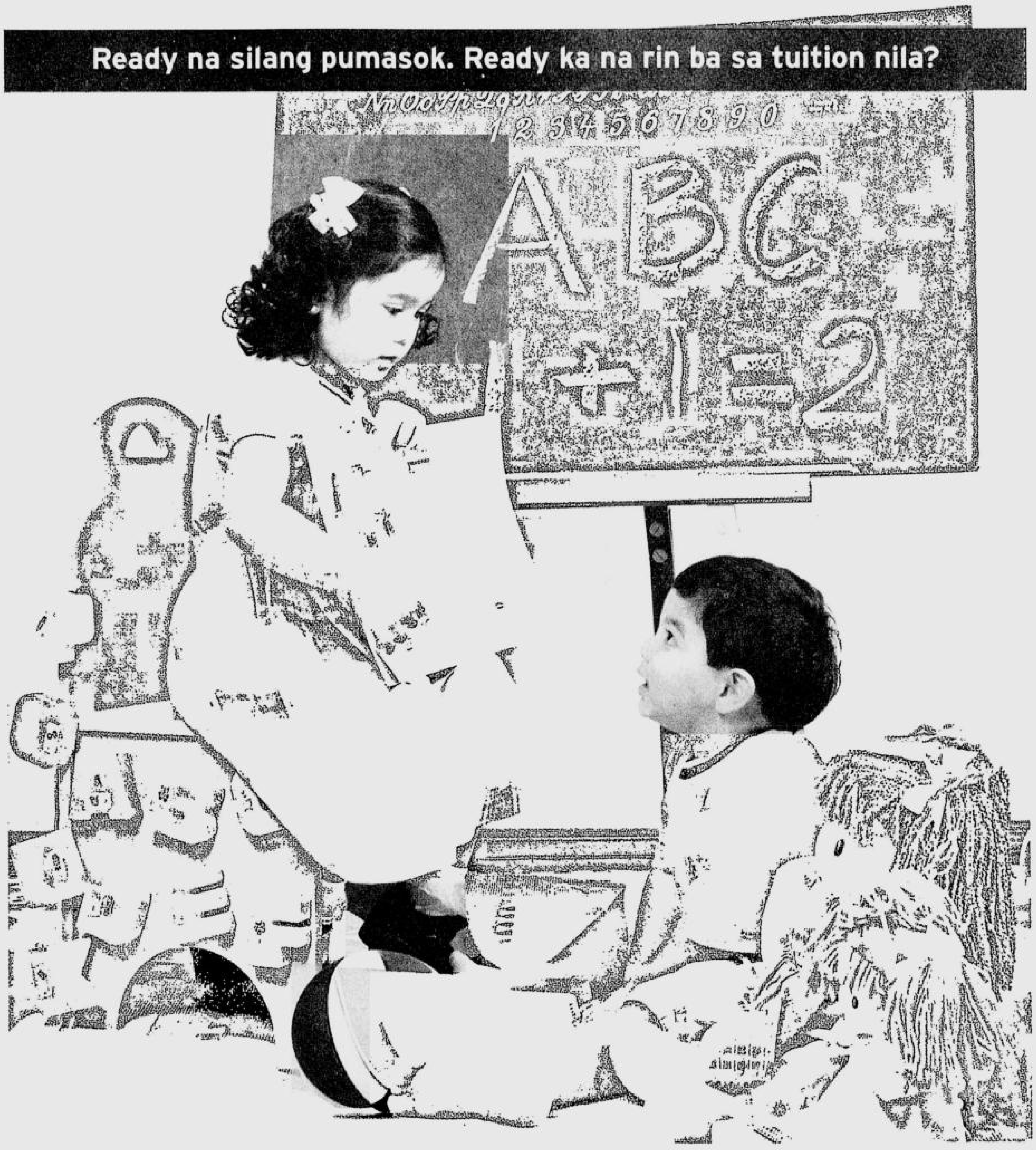
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Canadian envoy says 'mad cow' contained

CANADIAN Ambassador Robert Collette yesterday confirmed that there there had been a case of "mad cow" disease in his country but said it has already been contained.

Collette, who spoke to reporters after the signing of a Philippine-Canada prisoner exchange treaty at the Department of Justice yesterday, said the infected cow had been killed in January and Canadian authorities had acted promptly to prevent an outbreak.

The Philippines is reportedly planning to impose a ban against beef imports from Canada because of the discovery of the brain-wasting disease in the beef-producing province of Alberta.

"The said cow was destroyed last January. We are taking strong measures to contain this. It is not contagious. Obviously, we are going to investigate the case thoroughly," Collette said.

He said the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFAI) was trying to find out if there were other infected cows. Three farmers have also been quarantined.

"There might be no other cases. The CFAI is very thorough and is one of the best in the world. We are confident we acted swiftly and we feel that it was an isolated case," Collette said.

The ambassador said he was hoping the current case would turn out to be similar to one that they had in 1993 which was immediately contained.

Collette said Canada is sharing information about the reported outbreak with other countries.

He said Ottawa regretted the agriculture department's plan to ban Canadian beef exports, adding he hoped the situation would normalize.

Sources at the agriculture department's Bureau of Animal Industry said a draft administrative order to ban all Canadian beef products, including live cattle, sheep and goats, is awaiting the signature of Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo. *Philip C. Tubeza*

INQUIRER CITED
The Philippine Daily Inquirer was chosen yesterday as one of the 12 finalists for the "Gawad Kapatiran sa Industriya" award to be given by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines for good administration, quality product, good industrial relations, corporate social responsibility and productivity. Isagani Yambot, INQUIRER publisher (fourth from left) receives the citation. Others in photo (from left) are Jesse Rebustillo, PDI corporate human resources head; Ranulfo Payos, awards committee chair; Donald Dee, Ecop president; Miguel B. Valera, Ecop chair; David Valdes, PDI SVP for corporate services, and Luis Ymson, PDI SVP for finance. EGAY MONTANA

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RP, Canada ink prisoner-swap pact

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PHILIPPINES and Canada yesterday signed a treaty on prisoner exchange that would allow convicts who are nationals of the two countries to serve their prison terms in their native land.

Under the prisoner transfer process set out in the treaty, Canadians who are jailed in the Philippines and Filipino prisoners in Canada will be allowed to apply to serve their prison sentences in their own countries where they will be closer to their families.

"The ordeal of serving one's prison sentence is mitigated if it is spent near one's relatives and friends and within one's own country, thus making more effective the rehabilitation process," said Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong at the signing ceremony at the DOJ yesterday.

Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette said "the concept of offender transfers serves a very important humanitarian purpose."

Datumanong said there are five Canadians who are in jail here, one of them in the Bilibid National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City.

He said there are two Filipinos who are in prisons in Canada for offenses committed there.

Asked if Filipino convicts might not prefer to stay in Canada because of the sorry state of the Philippine prisons, Datumanong demurred, saying "our prisons are okay."

He said the government has been trying to improve the situation of the country's prisons.

"The modern-day treatment of a convict or a law offender is rehabilitative more than it is punitive. This principle is rooted in the belief that criminals are considered deviants and therefore ought to be cured and rehabilitated so they can rejoin society's mainstream and be part of a productive community once again," Datumanong said.

"Civilized nations around the world employ this means of treating criminality in their respective territories with the hope of converting law offenders into allies for development," he added.

Datumanong said the treaty would not affect the case of Rodolfo Pacificador, who is wanted for the killing of former Antique governor Evelio Javier in 1986.

The Canadian courts have turned down a Philippine request for Pacificador's extradition. He is now applying for asylum in Canada.

Datumanong said that if Pacificador's request is denied, he could be deported back to the country "to face the charges against him."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the very first prisoner transfer treaty in the world, implemented in 1978 between Canada and the United States.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 23, 2003
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 15:22-31
Gospel:	Jn 15:12-17

Jesus said to his disciples, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends; and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

"I shall not call you servants any more, because servants do not know what their master is about. Instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

"You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

"This is my command, that you love one another."

Commentary

Of the great men of the Old Testament, only Abraham was called a "friend of God." Moses, Joshua, and David were called "servants" or "slaves of Yahweh." The followers of Jesus are never called "servants" in John's Gospel. They are disciples, people whose relationship with Jesus was a learning process. They were not simply informed but formed as they listened to secrets of the Father's heart revealed by the Son. When they had heard it all, they were conferred with a new status, that of being "friends," intimate associates of Jesus. What have they done to deserve this? None. Jesus asked only one thing-that they remain friends to one another like they were friends to him: "There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends . . . love one another."

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STOP SARS ATTACK

DOH OFFICIAL ADVISORY

FRIDAY 23 May 2003

RP removed from WHO list of areas with recent local transmission

The World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the Philippines' declaration that the country has had no new locally transmitted cases of SARS for twenty (20) days, or two incubation periods. "This is excellent news for the Philippines", said the WHO Representative to the Philippines, Dr. Jean-Marc Olive."It is a tribute to all the people who have worked so hard to prevent the disease getting a hold here."

The last locally transmitted cases of SARS were isolated on April 30. They were a nurse and a doctor, who had become infected during a high-risk procedure on a SARS patient. The Philippines has now been removed from the WHO's list of places with recent local transmission of SARS and from its table on travel recommendation as of May 20. "This means that travellers to the Philippines and residents of the Philippines are at no more risk than those in countries that have had no SARS cases", said Dr. Olive. "It is now hoped that all travel restrictions imposed on the Philippines by other countries will be lifted".

"One of the challenges with SARS is to identify and follow up all close contacts. Not only did the Philippines accomplish that, but they also quarantined the village of nursing assistant who later infected seven others. This shows the resolve of the Philippine government in beating SARS. We are now seeing the results of that hard work", Olive concluded.

Question	Answer:
My uncle finished his work contract in Taiwan and went home five days ago. We live in the same house. He is doing voluntary home quarantine and so far he does not exhibit signs and symptoms of SARS. But I'm still wondering, are there any times when a surgical mask should be worn to prevent the spread of SARS?	Ask your uncle if he thinks that he had made contact with a SARS case in Taiwan. If he is not sure and does not yet show any signs or symptoms of SARS, he may still not be infective. But it is best for him to cover his mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. If possible he should also wear a surgical mask during close contact with household members to prevent the spread of infectious droplets. If in any case he exhibits the symptoms, that is the time to put on the mask until he is referred to a hospital. When a person with SARS is unable to wear a surgical mask, household members should wear surgical masks when in close contact with the patient. Remember that surgical masks should fit snugly around the mouth and nose. Masks are intended for use by one person only and should not be shared. Masks should be discarded when soiled or moist; changing masks daily is a rule of thumb. Hand hygiene should be performed after handling a soiled mask.

Reported SARS cases in the Country
(March 17 - May 22, 2003)

SARS suspects:	
total cumulative admission	84
total discharged	83
presently admitted (May 19 2003)	1
SARS cases	12
SARS deaths	2
SARS Recovered/Cured	10

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Strunk to remain in US jail while judge reviews plea

SACRAMENTO, California—Rod Strunk, whose extradition is being sought by the Philippines to stand trial for the 2001 killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca, will remain in jail here while a judge decides if he should be eligible for bail pending an extradition hearing.

US Magistrate Gregory Hollows set an extradition hearing for July 28. Hollows asked attorneys for more written arguments on Strunk's bail request by Tuesday and said he would rule afterward.

Strunk is the leading suspect in the Nov. 7, 2001, stabbing death of Blanca, who was found dead in the back seat of her parked car in her Greenhills office building. Blanca was also a member of the censors board.

Authorities allege Strunk masterminded the killing of his wife of 23 years in a dispute over property.

Strunk has maintained his innocence and will fight extradition.

Graying, casually dressed, the 63-year-old Strunk appeared without handcuffs in court Wednesday with several of his relatives present.

Arguing for Strunk's release, Sacramento attorney Jeffrey Kravitz told Hollows that Philippine officials had only one piece of evidence: a confession by an alleged accomplice that was recanted.

"There's no murder weapon. There's no blood. There's nothing," he said.

Kravitz said Strunk poses no flight risk and is preparing to act in a local play this September in Tracy. *AP*

Why Erap is keen on going to court

EXPECT ex-President Joseph Estrada to use his appearance at the Sandiganbayan today to try to gain media mileage and undercut the "sudden rise" in the popularity of President Macapagal-Arroyo, a state prosecutor in Estrada's plunder trial said yesterday.

"It probably worries them (the Estrada camp) to see President Macapagal getting popular (*bumabango*) not only locally but internationally," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio in Filipino.

The anti-graft court has summoned Estrada and his co-accused son, Jinggoy, to an 8:30 a.m. hearing on the motion to dismiss the cases against them filed last Monday by Alan Paguia, the new lawyer hired by the elder Estrada.

The motion to dismiss the cases on the ground that Estrada was still the "true President" was but another dilatory tactic, Villa-Ignacio said.

"It (motion) is fatally flawed, for in effect he's (Paguia) asking the Sandiganbayan to reverse an en banc ruling of the Supreme Court (that had declared Estrada as having resigned)," the special prosecutor said.

But for political mileage, Estrada is showing his die-hard supporters "that he is still fighting it out," Villa-Ignacio said.

"This is just for the media, to give false hope to his supporters and to counter the sudden rise (in popularity) of President Macapagal," he said. *Volt Contreras*

Taxman first to fall in 'lifestyle check'

By Volt Contreras

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission has filed graft charges against a regional tax director—the first case against a government official since President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a "lifestyle check" on her appointees in the light of complaints of rampant corruption in government.

The PAGC gave Pampanga-based director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue Antonio F. Montemayor 10 days from May 19 to answer an administrative complaint stemming from his non-declaration of his alleged assets—a 2001 Ford Expedition and a 1997 Toyota Land Cruiser, worth about P1.8 million and P1.2 million, respectively.

PACG chair Dario Rama said Montemayor was charged with violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act when he did not declare the two sport utility vehicles in his 2001 and 2002 Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

First case

Rama said in an interview yesterday that Montemayor's was the first case that resulted from a formal investigation since the PAGC launched a lifestyle check on presidential appointees last year.

He said the PAGC received an anonymous tip in January about Montemayor, who as a BIR Director II receives a P22,520 salary, representation and travel allowance of P7,150, plus P500 in additional compensation and another P500 in Personal Economic Relief Allowance, or Pera, for a total of P31,670 per month.

"The value of the vehicles as cited in the formal charge appears to be disproportionate to his salary," Rama told the INQUIRER.

The PAGC probe was aided by the Land Transportation Office, among other agencies, he added.

Rama said a counterpart criminal charge will be filed against Montemayor with the Office of the Ombudsman shortly.

The lifestyle check is being conducted by both by the PAGC and the Ombudsman, with the PAGC's mandate limited to administrative proceedings against erring presidential appointees.

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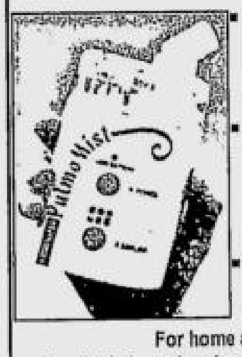

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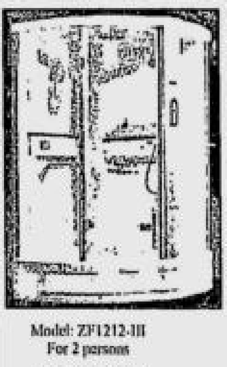
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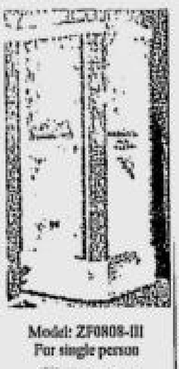
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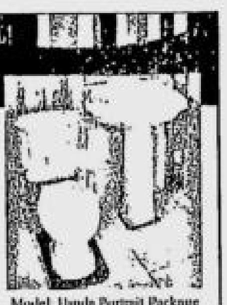
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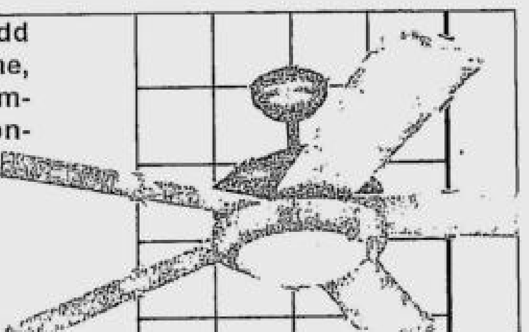
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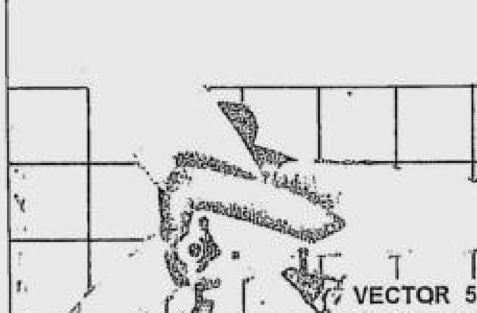
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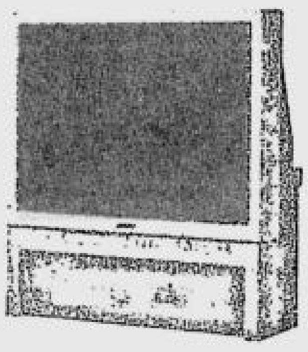
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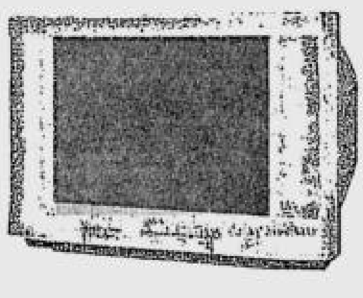
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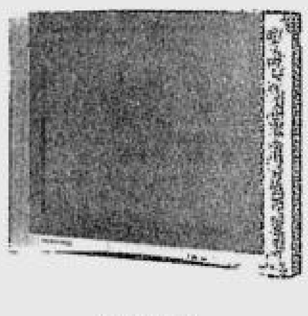
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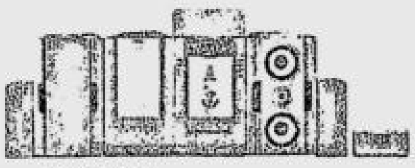
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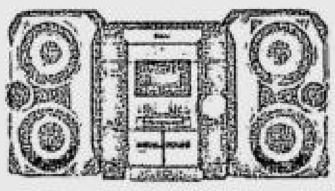
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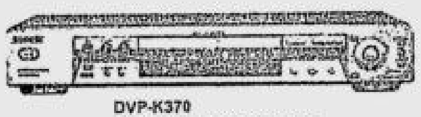
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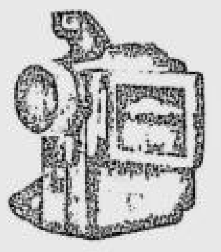
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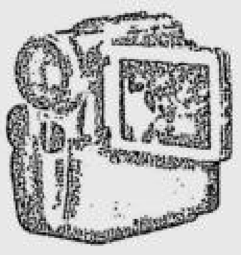
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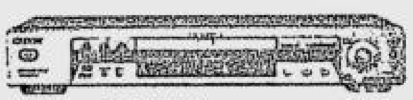
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Bombs away

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has absolutely no doubt that there is now a perfect congruence between Philippine and American security interests. While there are people "who might feel tainted or hostile" about the United States leading the war against terrorism, she told an admiring US President Bush at the White House on Tuesday, "we believe that US leadership and engagement with the US make the world a safer place for all of us to live in." In Asia, she later told US businessmen, the United States was needed "to keep our region safer and provide economic stability and growth." In the Philippines, "the US can help us wipe out terrorism ... as it wipes out terrorism within its borders."

How is this victory over the agents of terror supposed to be achieved? Bush supplied the answer by declaring the Philippines a special non-Nato ally. This is supposed to be the key that would unlock America's huge war chest and vast arsenal of modern weapons. This special status would mean, according to Bush, that the United States can respond more quickly to Philippine requests for military equipment and spare parts and make sure that the Philippine defense capabilities are modern so that "when the President orders a strike, it happens." And to back up these words, the Bush administration unveiled a package of military assistance worth $126 million, including the supply of 30 helicopters and $30 million for military equipment and training.

All that is fine, of course. No one doubts that the Armed Forces needs to be modernized; in fact, there is a law mandating it, although funds allocated for the purpose seem to just vanish without anybody knowing where they went. But will it bring the strife-torn areas of this country closer to peace?

If one were to listen to Ms Macapagal and her defense and military advisers, it would take a war approximating the one the United States waged against Iraq to bring peace to Mindanao. They have even appropriated terms that became popular during the second Gulf war to describe certain aspects of the ongoing military campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, though almost always inappropriately. The "selective" bombings of "embedded terrorist cells" ordered by Ms Macapagal, for instance, suggests a precision that the AFP is incapable of remotely approximating. The administration might want to turn the South into a little Iraq, but there is no Saddam Hussein to topple or a detested regime to change.

What the government is fighting is a determined group of guerrillas whose numbers multiply with every bullet that hits the wrong target and who have demonstrated the capacity to hit targets of their own choosing, both civilian and military. How can an enemy that operates that way be bombed out of existence?

Recent history should make us wary of those who preach war as the solution to the secessionist problem in the South, which is now the most serious threat to national security. If Ferdinand Marcos, with hundreds of millions of dollars in US military aid and with his martial law powers, could not lick the communists or the Moro secessionists, it would be foolish to argue that Ms Macapagal can do it this time by putting the Philippines firmly on America's side in the war against terrorism.

Quick military victories in Afghanistan and Iraq have not made the world safer for Americans at home and abroad. A war against secessionism with no realistic prospects of being won can only bring more death and worse deprivation to Filipinos in the South.

Inspiration

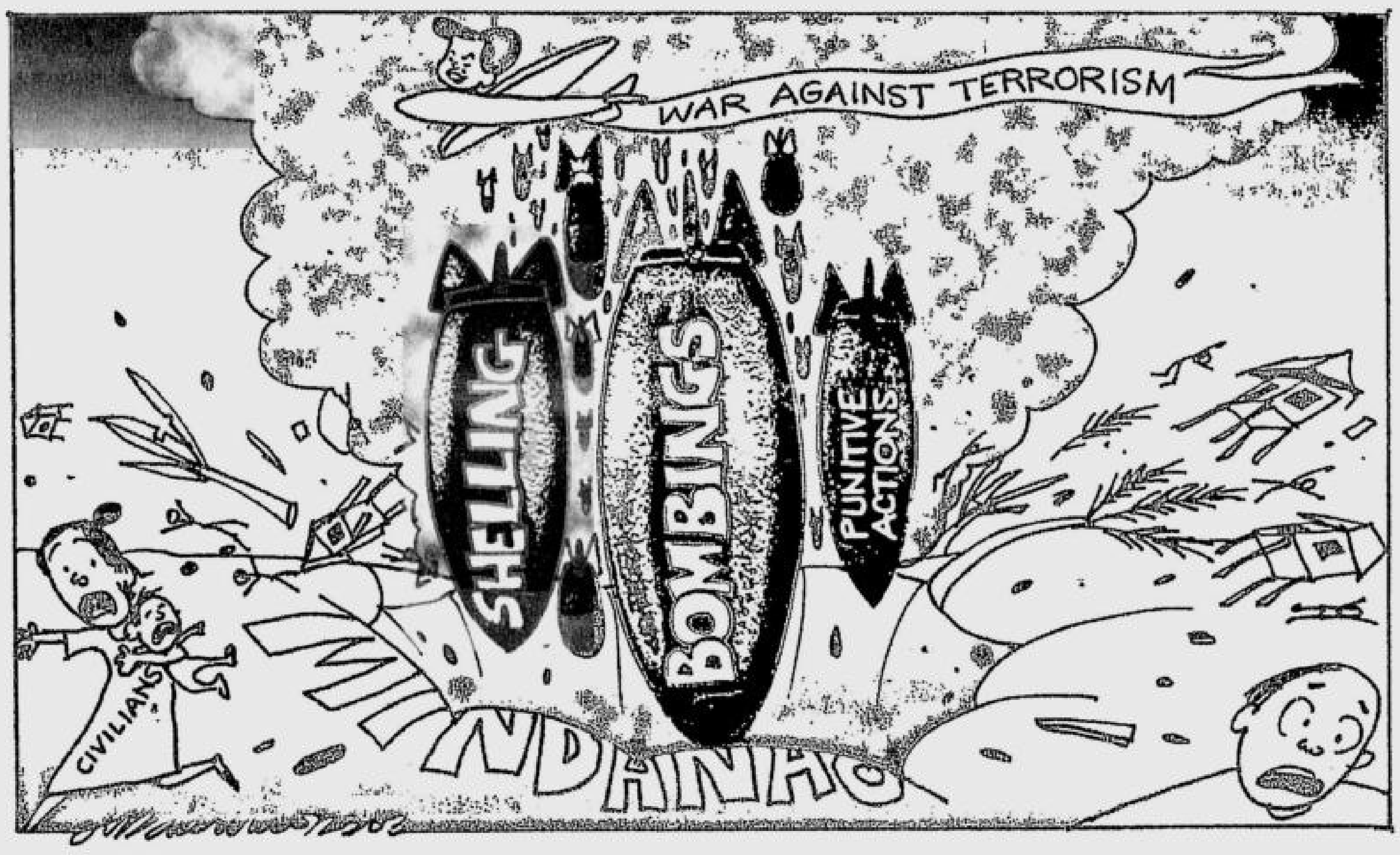
FOREIGN COMMENT

WALTER Sisulu, who has died aged 90, was one of that generation of South Africans who gave selflessly of themselves for the emancipation of their people and, ultimately, the freedom of all South Africans for generations to come.

Sisulu bequeaths much to an SA sorely in need of the moral rectitude and self-restraint that characterized his life of struggle. Together with former President Nelson Mandela, he led the resistance to white minority rule for almost five decades.... It was a struggle waged against a highly visible and conspicuous target, namely the apartheid government and its overt symbols of white power.

The contemporary struggle is more difficult, more nuanced, and the outlines of the challenges facing SA less obvious. The dangers are more insidious. Among these are the temptations of power and privilege, and the temptations of pursuing the route of political vengeance and retribution that has contributed to the failure of other societies in transition. ...

His example of selflessness should serve as an inspiration to generations to come. *Business Day (Johannesburg, South Africa)*



Illegal logging in Angat Dam watershed

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BAD news for Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun: Illegal logging is rampant in the Angat Dam Watershed Reservation in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija. Lawyer Jesus I. Santos of Bulacan, who has been fighting illegal logging in the area since 1977, wrote to say that the logs are brought down via General Tinio, formerly known as Papaya Municipality, in Nueva Ecija.

If Secretary Gozun will send men to Papaya, he said, they will see freshly cut logs cut from the Angat watershed in the river, and lumber in the town itself.

The reservoir of the Angat Multipurpose Dam provides water for electric generation, irrigation and water supply for Metro Manila, as well as prevent floods in Central Luzon.

Since 1977 when I first met Santos in the "Meet the Press" program which I hosted, he has been denouncing the illegal logging inside the watershed. He was never successful in his campaign—illegal logging continued—but during the administration of President Corazon Aquino, an environment secretary was kicked out for issuing a timber license to cut trees in 7,000 hectares of the Angat watershed. He was replaced by Sonny Dominguez who immediately cancelled the timber license.

"But illegal logging in the Angat watershed reservation continues unabated until now," wrote Santos. "Alleged reforestation of hundreds of thousands of hectares which cost many millions of pesos was claimed to have been undertaken during the Aquino administration. But just the same, no trees can be seen in the said reforestation areas," he said.

"I believe that the newly appointed secretary of the DENR, Ms Elisea Gozun, does not seem to be keen in doing something about the illegal logging. Secretary Sonny Alvarez could have been a good secretary but he was replaced by another whom I think is not interested in remedying the sad plight of the Angat watershed."

Ironically, the New People's Army was more interested in stopping the illegal logging, probably because if it doesn't stop, the NPA would have no forest cover to hide in. The NPA burned three 10-wheeler trucks carrying illegally cut logs. That stopped the logging for a while, but it is now in full blast again.

Will Secretary Gozun please do something to stop this desecration of the environment?

* * *

This one is for the Securities and Exchange Commission. A stockholder—in fact, an incorporator and director—of the Convention & Exhibition Managers International (Convex Int'l) is complaining that the corporation refuses to allow her to examine or inspect its corporate books and records.

According to Rowena C. Ocfemia, sister and attorney-in-fact of the stockholder, Ruby Ocfemia, "from the time of incorporation of Convex in 1995, the company books and records of our company were never shown nor was I given copies of the company's book of accounts. Worse, there were no stockholders' meetings nor annual meeting scheduled...This is a violation of the Corporation Code, particularly Title VIII, Sections 74 and 75 (Corporate Books and Records)."

She asked the SEC to compel the president of Convex, Agnes Escalante, to open its corporate books and records for scrutiny.

Ocfemia also asked the SEC to intervene and call for a stockholders meeting of the corporation. According to the company's by-laws, the regular meeting of stockholders shall be held "at the principal office on the first Monday of September of each year. However, from 1995, the date of incorporation of Convex, up to the present, there has been no regular or annual meeting held."

Ocfemia has written Escalante several letters asking for copies of the company's financial statements from 1995 to 2001, but she said she got no reply. "Though Convex is listed as a corporation, it is being run like a single proprietorship," she said.

Convex organizes conventions, trade fairs and exhibitions for companies and associations and grosses up to P21 million a year.

* * *

Would you like a gold bar as a souvenir this June? If you are a Philets jubilarian this year, all you have to do to get one is to go to the grand reunion of the Philets Foundation at the Quezon City Sports Club on June 14, starting at 6 p.m. The gold bar will have your name engraved on it, very handy as a conversation piece, a paper weight, or a club with which to bash the head of a burglar.

Philets Foundation is an association of journalists, writers, advertising and public relations practitioners, educators and public officials who studied at the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas. Class '53 will be this year's golden jubilarians while Class '51 and below will be the platinum jubilarians.

"It will be a homecoming like no other," said the organizers, because we have prepared an entertainment package designed to do just that: entertain and relive the good old college days."

One of the highlights of the program, the organizers added, is the awards of recognition to Philets alumni who have excelled in their chosen fields.

If you have any questions, call the Philets Foundation secretariat, Tel. No. 528-5117; Lalie Dua-Garcia, foundation secretary, 725-2973; and Roger and Letty Buhay, 647-1076.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Alarmed by the plummeting tourist arrivals because of the SARS outbreak, Hong Kong is launching new advertisements and commercials to attract tourists. They show Hong Kong's breathtaking tourist spots in the background while a bevy of beautiful girls in the foreground invite the tourist to "Come visit Hong Kong. We will take your breath away."

Annika

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE LAST and most vicious of the forms of discrimination humankind has ever known is not the one against people of color. It is the one against women.

This was driven home to me some weeks ago by the comments made by Vijay Singh on Annika Sorenstam, which have roused a tempest not just in the sports world but everywhere else. Sorenstam is the first woman golfer in 58 years to play in the PGA, the men's golf association, specifically in the Bank of America Colonial tournament. She accepted a sponsor's exemption to play in the event, and sparked a huge controversy almost immediately. Many PGA members resented it. Singh most of all.

"I hope she doesn't make the cut," Singh told reporters. "She doesn't belong out here. What is she going to prove by playing? It's ridiculous. She's the best woman golfer in the world, and I want to emphasize 'woman.' We have our tour for men, and they have their tour. She's taking a spot from someone in the field."

He would later try to rephrase his statements, doubtless as a result of the flak that came his way—and flak is putting it mildly, many of the comments were not fit to print—but too late. Well, no one more richly deserved it.

What astounded me about his remarks, however, was that Singh was the last person I would have expected them to issue from. Although he has never enjoyed a reputation for grace and charm in the Tour—he is better known for curtness and acquisitiveness—I thought he would be appreciative of Sorenstam's efforts to break barriers, as I imagined he himself has been compelled to do to get where he is. Which is No. 7 in the world.

It wasn't too long ago when Tiger Woods himself could not break into a lot of golf clubs in America because he was black. A Nike TV ad in 1996 showed that in one of its graphics, shocking a lot of Americans. Is it possible those things could happen in America?—one American asked in one of the forums the ad sparked. Another American answered, yes, some clubs expressly do not allow blacks—and women—to enter their premises unless they are serving someone.

Woods himself has been a disappointment in this department. Though a victim of racial barbs—the first time he won the Masters, a fellow golfer joked that they didn't serve chicken dinners there; the fellow forthwith lost his sponsorships in the furor that followed—he has been very diplomatic, or plain noncommittal, about Sorenstam's participation on the Colonial. Last year, he drew much criticism in the press for his answer to the question why he could abide by an institution, the Masters, which prohibited women from joining or even entering the pro shop. He said: "That's the way they want to set it up. It's their prerogative to set it up that way. It would be nice to see everyone have an equal chance to participate if they wanted to, but there is nothing you can do about it. It's just the way it is."

Well, without people like Martin Luther King and the others who spoke out against the way it is, things would have remained the way it is. And Woods would have been wearing a white jacket rather than a green one, and serving non-chicken-dinners there.

True enough, I don't know of any sport today that allows men and women to play against each other. Not even chess, which is largely mental. Of course it requires a great deal of physical exertion too, but of the kind women can easily supply, stamina being chief of them. And of course chess is not strictly a sport, the definition being generally reserved for tests of physical skill. But even chess eludes gender equality. Every time I hear about efforts to unify the two competing world chess federations today, I ask myself, "But when are they going to unify the men's and women's chess divisions?" From the perspective of the 21st century, that is the only real unification there is.

I would think the general principle should be that sports that do not require tests of physical strength and speed should be open to men and women. Golf does not. As Ian O'Connor, a sportswriter puts it, "Our most dominant athlete (Tiger Woods) happens to play a game that doesn't require a 42-inch vertical leap, a 7-foot, 300-pound body with 2 percent body fat, or a talent for throwing a 65-yard spiral while Ray Lewis is making a happy meal out of your rib cage." That pretty much opens it up to you and me.

The argument against this, articulated by Singh and others, is that the women are as yet not good enough to challenge the men. The current standards of the Ladies PGA and the PGA are those of checkers and chess. Maybe they will be good enough one day. That will be the time to erase the line of demarcation. Not till then. Today, the line stays.

That is all very well, except for one thing. Which is that we heard all those things before, in reference to people of color. Shortly before John Wayne died in the 1980s, he was asked if he thought blacks weren't good enough to become lead actors—there were none in his movies, or they appeared as menials. He answered that thus far whites were better actors than blacks. Maybe one day, they might be just as good, but until that day came, Hollywood was better in the hands of whites.

In fact, as a lot of blacks pointed out then, this puts the cart before the horse. The only reason the whites were better was that they were the lead actors. You got to be better by doing. Make blacks the lead actors and they would be better. How prophetic that would be Halle Berry and Denzel Washington would prove at last year's Oscars.

But as it turns out, that is not the final frontier, or roll of barbed wire.

The last and worst of man's inhumanity to man is not man's inhumanity to non-whites. It is man's inhumanity to woman.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

US aid not a huge pork barrel

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ONE of the unwelcome dividends of President Macapagal-Arroyo's undisputed triumphal state visit to the United States is that it has fueled speculations that she could be reconsidering her decision not to run in the 2004 elections.

According to reports from Washington, quoting the usual unnamed sources close to the administration, the warm welcome and the aid windfall she received from the Bush administration would translate into lifting her chances of winning the elections.

To begin with, there remains widespread skepticism that she would make good her word not to run. Days before her departure for Washington, political observers had been reading signs and "body language" (some people must have special clairvoyance to read events through one's smirk) indicating that she would run again.

Granting that the euphoria of her successful Washington visit is tempting her to reverse her decision of Dec. 30, in the face of bleak poll surveys showing sharp falls in her popularity, let us be reminded that the main purpose of the visit is capacity-building to govern the country effectively in the remaining 12 months of her presidency.

The trip was not about enhancing her prospects of being elected for a full term. Before the President gets funny ideas about seeking a full term on the basis of the lavish attention she received from President George W. Bush as a loyal and steadfast ally in the war on terrorism, she has to be reminded that she has now in her hands the resources to leave a concrete legacy before she steps down in 2004.

The military and economic aid package Bush committed to her is the biggest assistance given by the United States to the Philippines since it closed its military bases in 1992. As clearly indicated in the joint presidential statements during the state visit and the fact sheet released by Washington, the "anti-terrorism aid to the Philippines" gives us the wherewithal to fight terrorism on two fronts—military and economic.

This aid package is not, and should not be mistaken, as a huge pork barrel, courtesy of the Bush administration, to boost the election chances of President Macapagal or to bankroll her election campaign.

The anti-terrorism intent of the package is clearly in the Washington official fact sheet, which incidentally, states plain facts and is not embroidered with political propaganda.

The fact sheet does not fudge the aid commitment with generalizations. It contains specifics which identify clearly where the aid is to be used. For example:

- $30 million in new grant aid for equipment and training of AFP targeted at capabilities for countering terrorist groups in the Philippines.
- Development assistance to conflict areas: $30 million in new bilateral development assistance for Mindanao and support for the peace with the MILF.
- Establishment of combat engineering unit: $25 million in new grand assistance to train and equip a combat engineering unit and provide military needs in the war on terror. The unit will be able to do civic action and humanitarian projects in conflict zones.
- Agreement to provide US military support to AFP-led operations against the Abu Sayyaf.
- 20 UH-1H helicopters, as they become available and funding for refurbishment and transport is secured. An additional 10 UH-1H for spare parts. Clearly written on the package is the word Mindanao, the focus of this capacity-building aid. Let there be no mistake about that. Washington knows what the Bush administration wants. The Macapagal administration can do no less than managing this aid competently.

If the President wants to build a strong republic, this is it. All previous talk about a strong republic had been empty rhetoric, not backed at all by any resource.

It is highly probable that the Washington visit will be the turning point of the recovery by President Macapagal of her performance ratings. I can see that there is now the framework of a Mindanao economic reconstruction program that is based on giving the armed forces a strong military edge in the campaign against the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf, but this time backed by an economic and civic action component. Even some of the MILF leaders have welcomed the infusion of economic assets in Mindanao wile they deplore the current military accent directed at mauling the MILF's military capacity. They are also receptive to American mediation in the conflict— something unheard of in the saga of Arab bloc intervention in the search for a political settlement.

With the infusion of new resources and giving the program a focus, getting things done in Mindanao within a year can be done. The last thing that the President and her political advisers should do is to regard the aid package as a windfall for the political resurrection of President Macapagal.

That is not in the cards. What the conversion of newly-acquired assets to resources for solving conflict and rebuilding confidence in leadership and in the economy is that it will enhance the President's political capital to govern effectively. That these resources can translate into winning her a new term is extremely doubtful. She has to think very hard about what to do with her heaviest political baggage—the Mike Arroyo factor whose fingerprints are all over the place.

Return to Puerto Princesa

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE FIRST time I visited Palawan, Puerto Princesa in particular, it was to attend the inauguration of a new hotel owned by Filipino-Taiwanese tycoon Tan Yu. This was more than 10 years ago, and at that time Palawan was still considered an exotic destination, though even then the other guests were already raving about another tourist spot in the province, the resort of El Nido.

Upon the urging of another guest, a group of us decided to explore the underground river which, we were assured, would be but a "short" drive away. Among the group were Rep. Joe de Venecia (just an "ordinary" legislator at that time) and his wife Gina (not yet the popular "Manay Gina" she has become); Tessie Daza, wife of then Samar Rep. Raul Daza and an indefatigable dancer; and a group of doctors and their spouses who had bonded by taking part in group dancing lessons, the results of which they proudly showed off on the dance floor during the inaugural party.

We piled into a long jeepney and bounced, rattled and rolled our way through an amazingly rough road that seemed to last forever. At one point, our vehicle ground to a halt due to some mechanical glitch. When finally we got moving again, the Speaker-to-be briefly considered turning back since it was getting late in the day. But we all said it would be a shame to turn back when we were so close to our destination. The sun was quite low on the horizon when we arrived at the station where we were to take *bancas* into the underground river.

As we were boarding our *bancas*, I slipped and broke the strap of my rubber slippers. With alacrity, Manay Gina pointed to the boatman's flip-flops and asked him: "How much do you want to sell your slippers?" It must have been the most expensive pair of worn-out *tsinelas* ever, but I was saved.

Unwilling to be stuck on the road in the dark, we cut short our exploration of the underground river, turning back right after reaching the first chamber. We staggered into the hotel at nearly 10 p.m., yearning for the comforts of civilization. But our adventure had sealed the bonds of an enduring friendship.

* * *

SINCE then, I'd been to Palawan many times, to resorts like El Nido, Club Noah Isabelle and Club Paradise, but not to Puerto Princesa again until last weekend.

We spent much of that weekend in Dos Palmas, but there was time to explore a bit of Puerto Princesa before we were to board our Air Philippines flight back to Manila. I'd read and seen on TV accounts of the "*rurungan*" or weaving room where community weavers produced fine textile out of piña and native silk. When I said I wanted to take a look at the place and the products, Dos Palmas resident manager Lyba Godio assured us they'd make arrangements. Sure enough, when our boat docked at the Sta. Lourdes wharf, we were directed to separate vehicles depending on our destinations. A honeymooning couple (at least they looked like they were) was going to the underground river, and I bade them "good luck" under my breath, though I understand that purgatorial road is much improved today.

Well, we needed luck ourselves. When we got to the "*rurungan*," the caretaker wouldn't let us in, saying the place was closed as it was a Sunday. Our driver decided to proceed to the airport but as he approached, he was radioed and told to proceed to nearby Kamarikutan Café. This place is quite well known in Puerto Princesa and I'd seen footage of it in many "lifestyle" shows. Standing inside a wooded lot, its native architecture and ethnic décor, including original art and installations, provide a charming setting for snacks, meals, conversation and even a bit of shopping.

What we found most charming, though, were the koi swimming along a winding pond at the café's edge, including two giant pale golden specimens that reminded us of mutant alien creatures.

* * *

ON OUR second day in Dos Palmas, we were brought to Isla Puting Buhangin, which true to its name is a mound of sparkling white sand with sand bars extending along two sides. The resort built a *nipa* hut on the island, where we had our lunch of grilled seafood and other native fare.

My sister Charo and I recalled a similar sand bar in Lucap, the nearest jumping off point to the Hundred Islands in our hometown of Alaminos, Pangasinan. Which then led us to wondering why the Hundred Islands, a wonderful collection of islets and beaches, could not have been developed in the same way the Palawan resorts have been.

"Isn't it sad that none of our children or nieces and nephews have seen the Hundred Islands as we remember it?" she asked. True, private developers weren't allowed on any of the islands, except for a few daring long-term leaseholders, since the Islands had been declared a public park. But the real reason the Hundred Islands is no longer considered a prime tourist destination is that the environment has deteriorated so badly since no one seems interested in protecting it.

Dynamite fishing has basically destroyed the coral reefs, including the famous "Coral Garden" that was a popular snorkeling and dive spot. Poor maintenance has resulted in beaches and even the seabed strewn with garbage. Fishpond developers have destroyed much of the mangroves.

Of course, not everyone can afford the P15,000-plus that the average weekend package in a Palawan resort costs (though that also includes the air fare). The public also has the right to enjoy a natural resource like the Hundred Islands, but someone has to find a way to protect the environment of a tourist spot while allowing public access. Perhaps it starts with the public. In other words, with all of us.

Unlikely window to history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHILE the Manila Classified Business Directory in Cornejos' Pre-War Encyclopedic Directory, current in August 1937, is really obsolete to most people, a historian combs through it to form a picture of times past. Arranged alphabetically from A to Z it lists everything from accountants, balloons and copra cake to X-ray equipment and yeast. Naturally, I was disappointed that there was no entry for "Z" be it zippers or zebras, both of which were not really unknown in Manila at the time but there probably wasn't enough volume for business.

Accountants formed a list longer than others, and elsewhere the tools of their trade were advertised separately as accounting machines, adding machines, calculating machines, calendars and typewriters. What's the difference between an adding machine and a calculating machine? How come the abacus was not as popular even if it was handy, accurate and did not require batteries? Today a computer will do all these tasks for us, and probably a lot more. Browsing through these ads made me realize how much simpler our lives are today because of modern appliances that should make life and chores easier, and yet compared to people in the past we seem to have less time. Less time to read, to converse, to simply relish being alive. This old directory gave me a window into the time old people look back to with nostalgia.

There are engineers, photographers, physicians and other professionals listed in the directory, but it didn't come as a surprise that the longest list was for attorneys, with 175 entries, including Claro M. Recto whose business address was in the Soriano Building, Plaza Cervantes, Binondo. The next most popular profession, if we are to go by the directory is druggists/pharmacists. Those were the days when prescriptions were freshly mixed and concocted. Today we have pills galore and need generics to help us through the maze of competing brands.

Professional and social associations were intriguing because some of these associations are still around: Boy Scouts, Catholic Women's League, Colegio Medico-Farmaceutico, Knights of Columbus, La Proteccion de la Infancia (a.k.a. Gota de Leche, literally "drop of milk" that provided free milk for infants), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Motor Association, Salvation Army, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, US Veterans Administration, National Federation of Women's Clubs, YMCA and YWCA. Are there still people alive today who are qualified to be members of the Asociacion de Veteranos de la Revoulcion? What was Bisig ni Pantalan, Templo de Salomon, Linguituan and Mga Anak ng Bukid? Could our various chambers of commerce trace their humble beginnings to the Chinese Grocers Association, Manila Chinese Furniture Association, Philippine Chinese Rice Merchants Association, Philippine Chinese Sari-Sari Association? There was even a separate Chinese YMCA.

While the Chinese cornered the entries for business, the Japanese covered the massage trade. Except for a certain Prof. F.N. Gonzales, all the licensed (?) masseurs were Japanese: Prof. Hada in Azcarraga, Prof. and Mrs. Hayashi in Quiapo as well as Prof. K. Kamimura, Prof. Y Saito, Prof. G. Tamura. One wonders what the "prof" means—professor or professional? The rest had no titles, or at least didn't flaunt them, like Misu Matsuo, G. Nagumo, Shizu Asano, H. Togashi, Mrs. Kono Yamamoto. Almost all were in the Quiapo and Sta. Cruz areas except Professor Gonzalez in Legarda Street, Sampaloc. Of course, we presume the massage service is legitimate in the same way that some cabarets of those days were wholesome places. The famous Sta. Ana Cabaret, reputedly the largest in the world, was listed as were others like Bolinao, La Loma Recreation Hall, Luzon Cabaret, Mabuhay Cabaret, Maypajo Cabaret and of course, my favorite—Whoopee Cabaret in Pasay. You do not need a high IQ to know which cabaret was the most fun.

While rivers and streams were still pure and potable in those days, bottled water was also available. These came in two kinds, aerated and artesian. Aerated water: Ideal Aerated Water Co., Isuan Inc., La Elegancia, Luzon Aerated Water Corp., Manila Aerated Water Factory, New Star Aerated Water Factory, Philippine Aerated Water Co., Placer Fabrica de Aguas Gaseosas, Royal Softdrinks (the grandmother of today's RTOP or Royal Tru Orange?), Sinukuan Aerated water, San Miguel Brewey and Watson & Co. I'm not sure which of the above manufactured or at least bottled the popular Tansan aerated water. It was a household name, perhaps the first to use distinctive bottle caps. Isn't the Filipino term for bottlecap called *tansan*?

Personally, I prefer still water to fizzy or agua con gas. I presume artesian was still water from a well. Was being in a bottle a guarantee of purity? To make this sales pitch, one company was the Sanitary Artesian Water from Bambang, Sta. Cruz. How did it compete against F.B.Artesian Water in San Juan, Royal Artesian Water in San Miguel Manila, and of course Watson & Co? Today any bottled water is called, generically, "mineral" water whether it comes straight out of a rusty faucet, a spring or is distilled. Simply comparing current business with the past is an exercise in history.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Thanatopsis

HIGH BLOOD

Edmundo Holazo Escalante

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

"HELLO. Good afternoon. Is this Dr. ________?" "Yes I am."

"This is Escalante. Your patient from Bicol. May I know the result of my biopsy?"

"It's bad news." Brief silence. "Why?"

"You have cancer of the prostate. You know, you are still strong. You can still live from 10 to 15 years."

"Yes, I know." I answered.

Later, I told the doctor, when I visited him— "In fact, I can still do push-ups up to 10 or more." I did not tell him however that I'm still sexually active; still had a romantic outlook and an appreciation for the beautiful which remains undiminished to this day. I did not tell him also that I have an uncle, Rafael Holazo, a retired US army officer, who fought and survived Bataan and Korea, and used to hang around in the University of the Philippines in his younger years with the Veronicans. He will be 90 years old this June, still with an eye for young pretty damsels, still strong as an ox, almost six feet tall. (In the US army, he used to be mistaken for a Puerto Rican, with his mustache and all). I did not tell the doctor about my mother Esperanza, a retired public school teacher in the Philippines. In 1994 (at age 94) she won an award for poetry from the National Library of Poetry in Ohio, when her entry, a whimsical, musical, magical poem titled "Kites At War," (as if written by an adventurous kid), became the Editor's Choice Award, and recorded on electronic tape by the same outfit. In 1985 (at age 85), mother was in a car accident on the way to Virginia, and survived with two broken ribs. At age 92, she was operated on for gallstones, and also survived, living for eight more years until she died at age 100 years and 8 months in August 2000.

During her 100th birthday (she was born on Jan. 29, 1900) and millennial family reunion in Baltimore, she outtalked all of us, so I told the people present, including the doctor colleagues of my brother Tony that mother will outlive all of us, including her doctor. Such are my ruminations today; a flashback.

"Doctor, what do you recommend?"

"We will give you a brachytherapy protocol (I hope I got the spelling right). But it will cost from $5,000 to $7,000," the doctor told me.

"Why dollars?" "It's imported.." "The materials?" I asked. "Yes," the doctor said.

So, I have cancer. The thought keeps recurring. I must live with it, rationally even with a shrewd outlook, I told myself. You won't believe it, there's no self-pity, worry (except for the expenses); not even anxiety or angst. Nor fear. It is like a challenge—like any of the critical challenges I have faced in life. I think about how to deal with it. As if I were a boxer inside a ring—scrutinizing an opponent. Squaring with him, thinking how to deal with him and avoid being out-boxed or knocked out.

I proceeded to the UST Hospital the same day to get the record of my biopsy and consult with my doctor. At the doctor's office were the shingles of the other doctors; one, Dr. So and So—for Pediatric and Infectious Diseases; Another, Dr. So and So—Internal Medicine—Pulmonology. At the doorstep was a man with a mask. SARS victim or scared of SARS or plain OA? The "bad news" of prostate cancer did not give me a scare, yes, honest. But SARS? It's different—you are faced with a heavyweight boxer (which is SARS) with its knock-out punch that can floor you within the first or second round. So, naturally, I felt scared and anxious. I thought of leaving the clinic. But only for a brief moment. After all, with prostate cancer, I am at Death's beck and call.

"Are there any options, doctor?" "Yes, surgery."

"So, how about surgery?" "The cost is not far."

I was referred to a doctor partner in the Cardinal Santos Hospital. Appointment with him was arranged for the next day.

I think of UST where I got my Ph.B. from the College of Philosophy and Letters. The UST campus where I dreamed dreams, where Neal H. Cruz of the INQUIRER was a classmate in the Art of Modern Fiction under NVM Gonzalez; other classmates (now also famous) like Jess Sison, Ambassador Landring Verceles (now deceased); Ophelia Alcantara, now Ms Dimalanta and Dean of Arts and Letters at UST, who published in the Varsitarian two or three poems of mine in our student days.

Ironically, at a clinic in the UST Hospital, I sense now the death of some remaining dreams—with the "bad news" that I have prostate cancer. Musings again.

It was about seven in the evening of May 5 when I started writing this.

In a few days, (May 10) at the induction of officers of the IBP Sorsogon Chapter, I'll take my oath as new president of the chapter. After that, I'll campaign for the governorship of IBP Bicolandia; and even the IBP National Convention this May 21-24 at the PICC. I now paraphrase Robert Frost, considering my present circumstances: "I still have a few miles to go before I sleep. Because I still have a few promises to keep." And like the ABBA singers, I say: "I believe in angels. And I still have dreams to fulfill."

The second doctor at the Cardinal Santos Hospital advised me to have a total body bone scan and CT scan of the lower abdomen, etc. to find out if the cancer has spread.

Depending on the results, probably the next piece I'll send to the INQUIRER will be "Thanatopsis Part II." It will be about the pre-departure rites I will schedule for myself where I'll hear my friends (and even enemies) say something about me while I lie down listening inside a simple soft wood ("*bilwang*") coffin, and where I'll occasionally rise and tell the person delivering the Eulogy "*Tama 'yan*. (That's correct)" or "*Hindi tama 'yan* (That's not correct)," as the case may be. Where, I'll know because I'm still full of sense—who remain the tightwads (*kuripot*) among my friends, up to my last day, depending on their "*limos*" or alms. This pre-departure rites idea suits me really. (When I actually die, I will be brought immediately to the cemetery without much ado, much less, fanfare, no more wake or what.) After all, there already was this pre-departure rites. And I'm not joking, for I'll already schedule it. And perhaps I'll have the last laugh on Death, albeit I'll admit or concede that 20 years from that day.

Edmundo Holazo Escalante is a retired member of the bench. Earlier, he served the Bureau of Internal Revenue as chief, O & M Staff and later as director of the BIR Training School. He retired from the BIR at 47 and from the judiciary in 1997. He owns two LP albums of T.S. Elliot and Robert Frost reading their own poems.

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House OK'd Cha-cha by voice vote

IN A LETTER to the editor last May 14, Acting Secretary General of the House of Representatives Artemio Adasa, misrepresented House Journal No. 62 by saying that House Concurrent Resolution No. 16 which enjoins the Senate's concurrence for a constituent assembly to propose amendments to the Constitution was adopted by a roll call vote. Wrote Adasa: "A roll call was called, and with 147 members present, the chair declared there was a quorum (Page 85, Journal No. 62). The Body subsequently adopted the resolution by a vote of 134-13."

This is an unmitigated falsehood because there was no roll call vote when the House adopted Resolution No. 16. The House, presided by Speaker Jose de Venecia himself, adopted the resolution on a voice vote, not a roll call vote. This is reflected in black and white on Page 101 of House Journal No. 62, quoted in full below:

"At this point, Deputy Speaker Gonzalez relinquished the Chair to Speaker De Venecia.

"There being no interpellations and speeches en contra, on motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of sponsorship and debate."

"At this point, Rep. Escudero informed the Members that they could submit their manifestations, positions or explanations of vote on or before March 29, 2003. He added that the voting conducted was merely an 'aye' and 'nay' vote and that the actual vote of each Member, upon the submission of their written manifestations or explanations, will be reflected in the records.

"There being no Committee and individual amendments, on motion of Rep. Escudero, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of amendments.

"On motion of Rep. Escudero, the Chair called for a viva voce vote, and with majority voting in favor of House Concurrent Resolution No. 16, the Body adopted the same."

It was 11:47 when the last turno en contra was delivered before the viva voce was called. This appears on Page 100 of the same journal.

At the quorum call at 9:05 p.m., 147 members responded. At 11:47 p.m. when the House voted on Concurrent Resolution No. 16, they could have easily called the roll if the 147 members who responded to the quorum call at 9:07 p.m. were still around at midnight. But Speaker De Venecia did not and could not call the roll despite the measure that would be voted upon was so transcendental. Thus, the voice vote was resorted to because the number of votes cast need not be recorded.

Speaker De Venecia must correct this falsehood committed by his acting secretary general. The Speaker knows this because he was presiding at the time and nowhere in any of the House Journals is there a record that a roll call vote was undertaken. Otherwise, the integrity of the entries in the House Journal will henceforth be tainted.

In the pursuit of Charter change, the proponents must observe all rules and transparency. Short of that, we trifle with the Constitution itself.

—SEN. JOKER P. ARROYO

Are we ready to meet problems like Jumbo?

THAT incident of a show elephant getting loose and roaming the business capital of Quezon City has exposed the inability of our local authorities to respond to such cases.

It is time to create a unit in the local police or the Metro Manila Development Authority, fully trained and equipped, that can immediately respond to similar incidents in the future.

Just imagine if it were a tiger or a lion that got loose in the city!

—PACO RODRIGUEZ,
14 Salem St., East Fairview,
Quezon City

The Muslim secessionist problem

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, before embarking for her US visit, ordered an all-out offensive against the Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. But this is something old and will have little effect. The military has been hitting the MILF with all the weapons in its arsenal and the MILF is still here, solid and strong. The MILF now is more experienced and have learned a lot from years of bloody combat against the best soldiers the government has fielded. During the all-out war campaign of deposed President Joseph Estrada in 2000, the MILF inflicted heavy loses on the enemy, killing 810 and wounding more than 2,000. Several tanks and military vehicles were destroyed or immobilized.

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

The Armed Forces cannot crush the MILF militarily. Resuming the war in Mindanao can only mean that the civilians and low-ranking combatants will suffer most, while the generals and high-ranking officials will only make huge profits out of this war. We, who pay huge income taxes, are the great victims of this useless and unnecessary war.

The Malaysians will not allow the MILF-supported rebels to give up totally. A peaceful Mindanao will give the Philippines more economic advantage to become strong enough later to even credibly lay claim to Sabah again.

An unstable Mindanao means a slow economy. Malaysia should stay out of it, in my opinion. Now that the Philippines is a major ally of the United States outside of Nato, this would help a lot in getting rid of the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf that cause huge trouble in Mindanao.—**leslie**

* * *

The government will never allow Mindanao to fall into the hands of those who will never form a democracy. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was formed, and they yet still have to prove that they can govern themselves properly. If a referendum still results in Mindanaoans saying no to secession, what happens then? The MILF and all its supporters will continue burning down schools, markets and infrastructure.—**KaFerdi**

* * *

The MILF claims to represent the cause of the Filipino Muslims. Actually it does not! The MILF hoodwinked ordinary civilians into supporting it to serve the selfish interest of its leaders. Actually it has nothing to offer. These promises of a good life are but a myth. Look at Afghanistan. Right after the Taliban swept into power, the Afghan economy suffered. There were repressions and there were rampant human rights violations. A strict Islamic state dipped them deeper into the quagmire of hopelessness and poverty.

These will be the foreseeable result if the MILF succeeds in its quest for an Islamic state. Our brother Muslims cannot hope for a better life under it.

That part of the country will give Osama bin Laden and his cohorts a safe haven in this part of the globe.

It's now time for Muslim Filipinos to speak up for themselves. They should not entrust their hope and future to rebels who are rapidly losing their cause and are coddling terrorists. There is no hope in joining the MILF, only despair, destruction and tragedy. Christian and Muslim Filipinos should unite in forging a progressive country for all of them. Reject the MILF!!!—**ChristianArab**

* * *

The government need not declare the MILF a terrorist organization, actually the government can just apply the full force of the law.—**Pedro_Salakot**

* * *

We're now a major non-Nato ally. Will we have an annual $2.2 billion in military aid just like Israel or Egypt? Rest in peace to the MILF! Shock and awe in Mindanao soon.—**Yinamiran**

* * *

You'll know when the military offensive is effective when the various aboveground front organizations of the rebels start making noises about alleged human rights violations, civilian displacements, economic dislocation, fears of epidemics, etc., because that's what these sympathizers and closet supporters of the MILF (both in and out of the government) are doing right now: making the appropriate noises to blunt, or if not at least stall, the renewed military offensive against the armed Muslim secessionists.

In fact, these people have become so adept at this strategy of currying favorable public opinion that less discerning laymen tend to get deluded into siding with them without actually or truly understanding the meat of the issues involved.—**Rolly S.**

* * *

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu is starting to sound like that infamous Baghdad Bob. The more he talks, the more no one believes him. The Armed Forces should keep an eye on the country's backdoor. And they shouldn't even blink their eyes when doing that. Reports say foreigners are helping the MILF fight the government.—**Policarpio**

* * *

Let's not get carried away with events. The United States will not start bombing any part of the Philippines without exhausting diplomacy and I know that there is a diplomatic solution if the United States mediates.—**Carlos**

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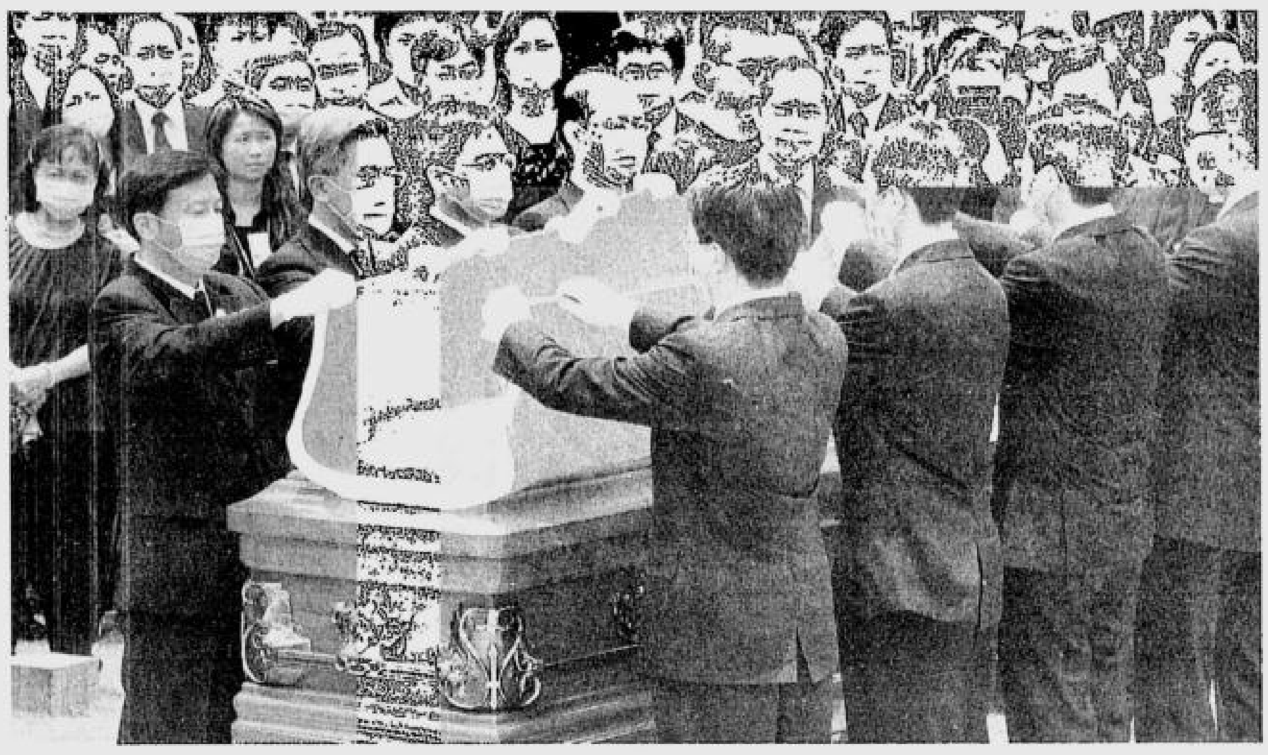
The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



PALLBEARERS fold the Hong Kong flag above the coffin of Dr. Tse Yuen-man, 35, one of three frontline health workers killed in the territory's battle against the SARS, at a funeral service at Gallant Garden, a special cemetery for Hong Kong people who die while performing their duties with courage, May 22. Hundreds of grieving hospital workers and friends paid respects to the first Hong Kong doctor killed by the virus at a funeral honoring her as a hero. AP

Taiwan posts record 65 new SARS cases

TAIPE—Taiwan health authorities were battling to get a grip on an escalating SARS crisis Thursday after a record number of cases were announced in the wake of an island-wide World Health Organization travel alert.

Taiwan has been alone amongst Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome hotspots across Asia this week, registering significant numbers of new cases while other regions have posted steady declines.

On Thursday a further 65 new cases—nearly double the previous daily record—were announced, taking Taiwan's tally to 483 infections and 60 fatalities, according to Department of Health figures.

The WHO has said Taiwan is battling the world's "most rapid" outbreak of SARS, and late Wednesday extended an earlier travel advisory imposed solely on Taipei to include all regions of Taiwan.

Taiwan's Center of Disease Control (CDC) Director Su Ih-jen said Thursday the spread of the epidemic in the south was "under control", adding that no new cases had been detected for four days at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital.

Twelve people, including a doctor, have died following an outbreak at the hospital.

However, SARS-related deaths climbed to 10 at Chung Ho Memorial Hospital in Kaohsiung city, and more suspected cases were reported at Chi Mei Medical Center in the southern city of Tainan.

A large percentage of Taiwan's SARS cases have involved medical workers, and hundreds of hospital staff have quit in protest at working conditions on the frontline of the fight against the disease.

CDC chief Su said health authorities were assisting major hospitals in the south build up protective systems to combat the disease.

SARS has left nearly 700 people dead and more than 8,000 infected in around 30 countries since it first emerged in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong last November.

China remains the worst-affected country, with latest figures putting the death toll at 296 with 5,249 cases. However, China has seen a steady fall in recorded cases, with 12 infections and two deaths announced on Wednesday.

WHO and Chinese officials have given a cautious welcome to the decreasing numbers, but have stopped short of declaring victory in the fight against the disease. Premier Wen Jiabao warned late Wednesday against excessive optimism, saying the SARS battle remained arduous.

Hong Kong has also shown signs that its outbreak is under control, with only a single case announced on Wednesday and two more deaths.

The territory's leader Tung Chee-hwa and senior government officials attended a hero's funeral for the first public hospital doctor to die of SARS on Thursday.

Joanna Tse Yuen-man, 35, died last week after treating patients with the deadly virus at Tuen Mun Hospital. Her coffin, draped with the flag of the Hong Kong special administrative region, was taken to Gallant Garden, a cemetery reserved for public servants who die while serving the community.

SARS has dealt crippling blows to tourism and travel sectors across Asia, with Hong Kong and China particularly hard hit.

China also warned Thursday SARS could cost hundreds of thousands of jobs, leading officials to characterise the employment situation as "grave," state media said. *AFP*

Deaths mount in Aceh crackdown

COT BATEE, Indonesia—Thousands of Indonesian troops pressed on Wednesday with an operation to crush Aceh separatist rebels and a total of 18 killings were reported in two villages.

Indonesia has launched its biggest military operation in a quarter-century to try to wipe out the Free Aceh Movement following the breakdown of last-ditch peace talks in Tokyo over the weekend.

Residents of two villages in strife-torn North Aceh said staff a total of 18 people were killed Wednesday by the military and staffers saw 11 of the bodies. It was not possible to determine whether the dead had been GAM members.

In other developments the military said it had sent crack troops to halt arson attacks on scores of schools in Aceh while the province's military ruler announced curbs on the media and on civilian activists viewed as sympathetic to GAM. *AFP*

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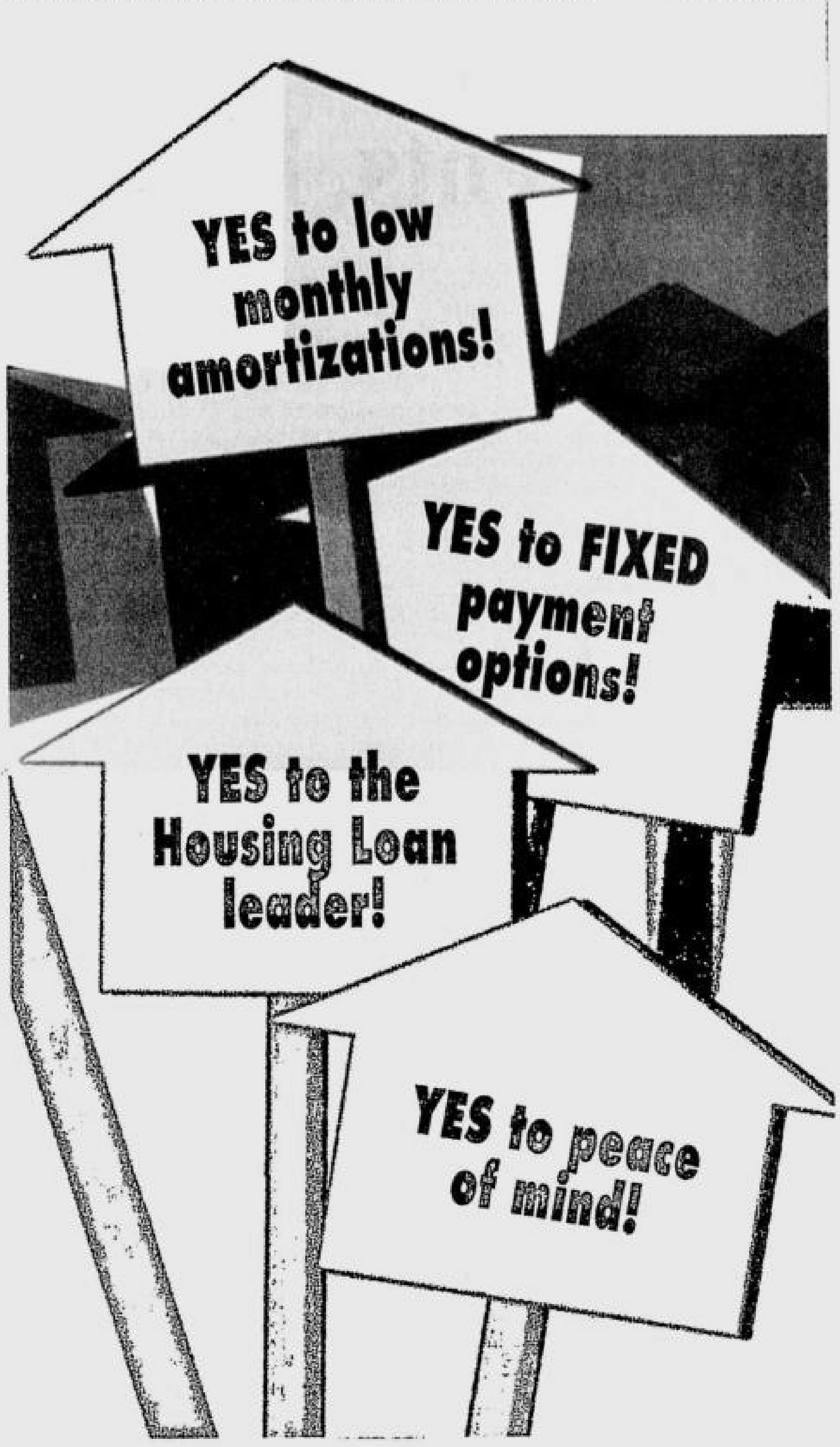

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Algeria quake topples apartments, kills 770

ALGIERS—In just a few terrifying seconds, apartment blocks swayed and then toppled, crushed like paper straws by a powerful earthquake which struck northern Algeria, killing more than 770 people.

Cries of terror and anguish rent the air as concrete, bricks and mortar collapsed into mounds of rubble and dust late Wednesday in the quake, measured at between 5.8 to 6.0 on the Richter scale.

National television said 770 people were killed, and earlier estimates said about 4,700 people were injured in the quake, which brought down power lines, plunging Algiers into darkness.

Women and children, just sitting down to dinner, fled their homes seeking shelter, with many people spending a terrifying night in their gardens or cars.

"I was on the balcony, looking at central Algiers when I saw what looked like an enormous dust cloud. I went dizzy as the building began to sway back and forth like a see-saw. All the furniture fell over, the chandelier flew out of the window," said one resident, who had fled his 14-story apartment block.

In the worst affected town of Boumerdes, 50 km east of the capital, a dozen apartment blocks were flattened in the violent upheaval. Thousands were feared to be trapped beneath the debris.

Even before rescue workers could get to the sites, residents organized themselves to help their friends and neighbors.

"Old Rashid. Don't forget old Rashid. Help his wife to get him down," someone shouted into the night sky, as the men rushed back into an Algiers apartment block to help out a paralyzed neighbor.

Debris was strewn around the building as the facade cascaded down with a terrifying boom, spreading even more panic among the fleeing residents.

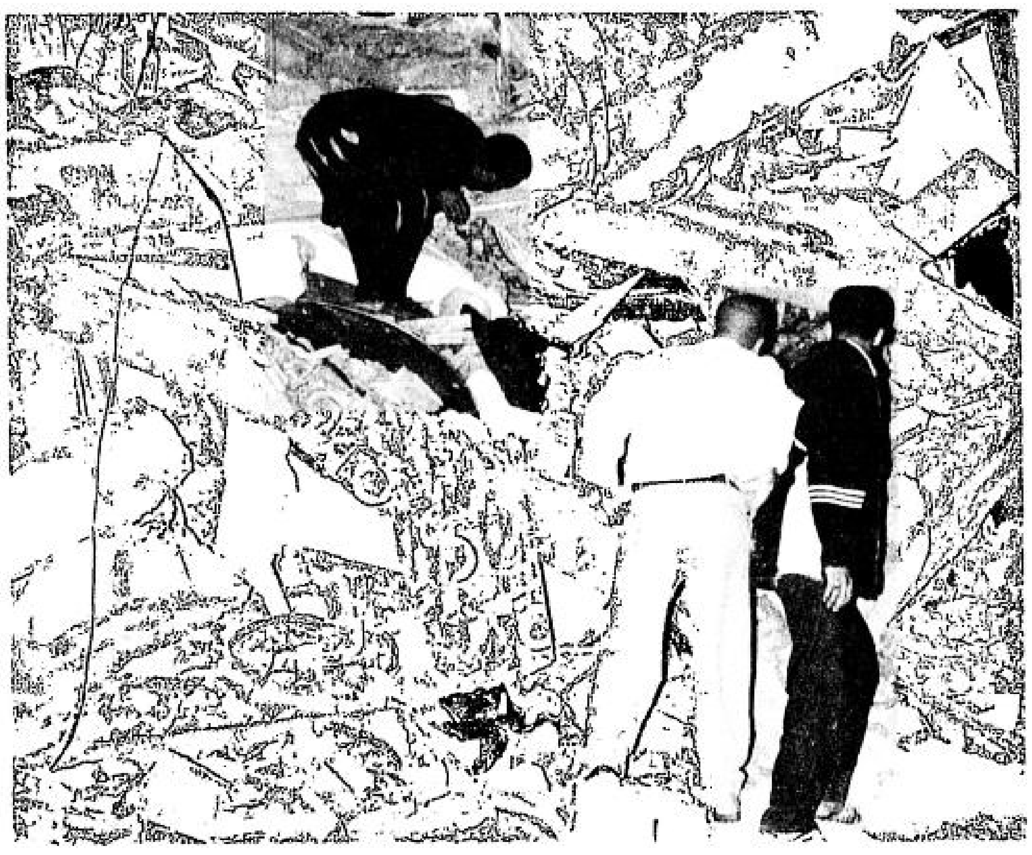
"Mummy, mummy, don't leave me!" wailed a terrified child.

In the university town of Rouiba, on the far eastern outskirts of the Algerian capital, a three-story faculty building had simply folded in on itself, while houses all around were damaged but still standing.

Rescuers who worked through the night managed to pull a young woman, whose name was given only as Latifa, from the wreckage of the Bab-Ezzouar faculty building, but her husband was not so lucky, crushed to death in the collapse.

Several kilometers away at Reghaia, a 10-story apartment block had simply crumpled, entombing its residents, even though many nearby buildings were left intact.

Early Thursday scenes of devastation greeted residents as they crept back fearfully to their homes after spending the night in the open. *AFP*



PEOPLE search through debris of a destroyed building in Algiers May 21, after a strong earthquake hit the area around Algeria's capital. About 800 people were killed and earlier estimates put the injured at 4,638. Thousands were believed trapped beneath debris.. AP

WHO adopts pact to curb deaths from smoking

GENEVA—The World Health Organization on Wednesday adopted a historic anti-smoking treaty aimed at curbing five million tobacco-related deaths a year, and elected a South Korean doctor to its helm.

More than 190 countries meeting at the WHO's annual assembly here unanimously approved the treaty, which is the first global treaty committing governments to deal with a major public health issue.

"Today we are acting to save billions of lives and protect people's health for generations to come," said Gro Harlem Brundtland, the outgoing WHO director general who championed the pact.

"This is a historic moment in global public health, demonstrating the international will to tackle a threat to health head on," she said.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, drawn up after three years of sometimes bitter negotiations, is designed to reduce smoking-related deaths and disease worldwide by imposing curbs on the advertising, sponsorship and promotion of tobacco.

It also requires countries to establish new labelling and to strengthen legislation to clamp down on tobacco smuggling.

It will take effect after the 40th of the WHO's 192 member states ratifies it, which is expected to take several years. The document opens for signature at WHO headquarters from June 16. *AFP*

Appeals court junks $145-B tobacco award

MIAMI—An appeals court Wednesday overturned a record $145-billion award to Florida smokers, saying the verdict would bankrupt the tobacco industry and should not have been tried as a class action suit.

The tobacco industry promptly hailed the decision, which sent tobacco stocks surging.

"We reverse with instructions that the class be decertified," Florida's Third District Court of Appeals said in a 68-page order.

The ruling overturns a 2000 decision ordering tobacco companies—including Altria's Philip Morris USA and RJ Reynolds Tobacco Holdings Inc.—to pay hundreds of thousands of sick smokers in Florida for misleading them about the risks of smoking.

The jury in the so-called Engle class action lawsuit had awarded $12.7 million in compensatory damages and $145 billion in punitive damages.

But the appellate court ruled Wednesday that the jury was wrong in trying the case as a class action lawsuit, saying it "presents a multitude of individualized issues."

It said, however, that the estimated 700,000 people included in the suit "may pursue their claims on an individual basis." *AFP*

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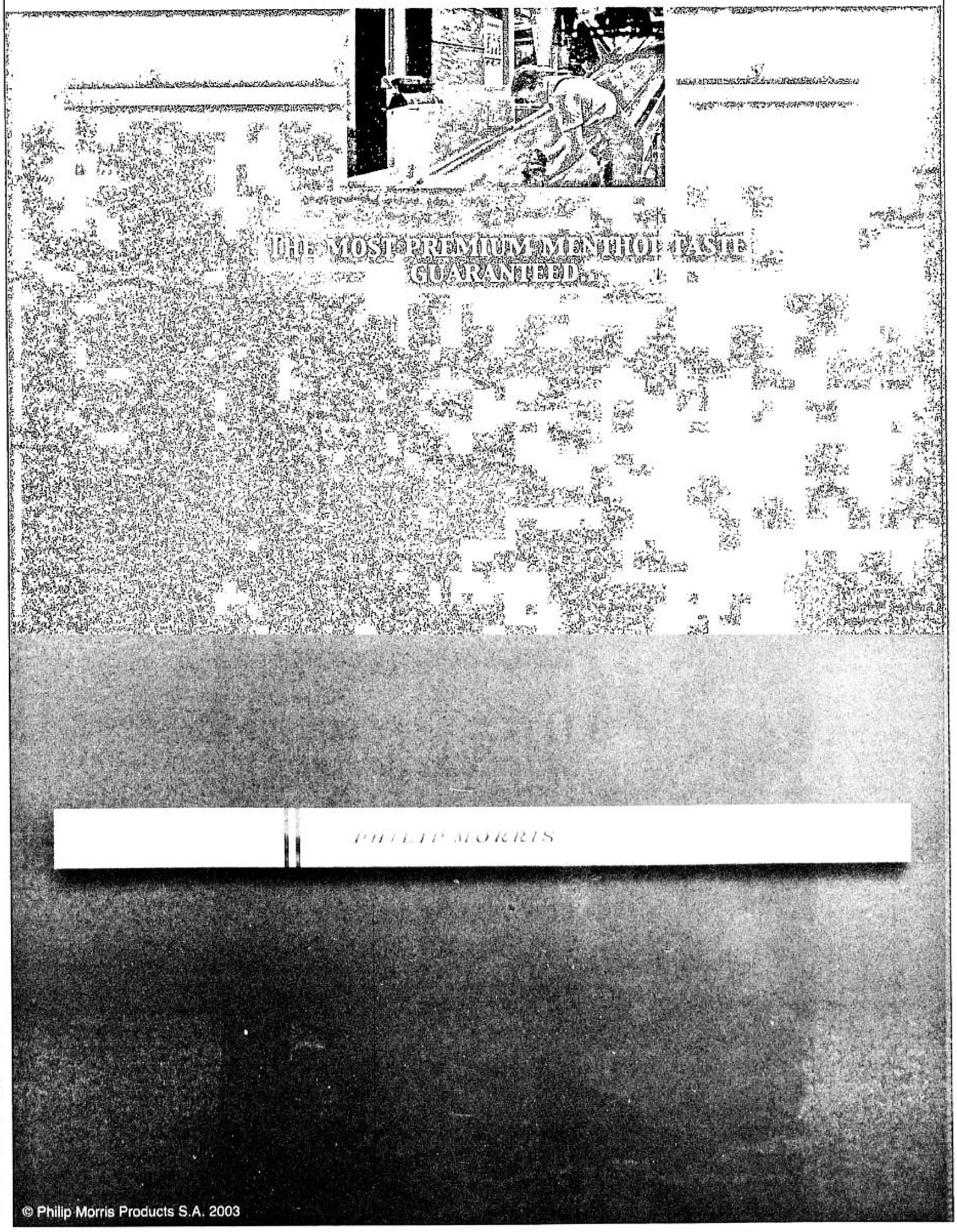
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to health



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UN poised to end 13 years of sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS—A drive by the United States to end 13 years of UN sanctions on Iraq looked set for approval from the Security Council Thursday after France, Germany and Russia announced their support.

The council was due to vote on the US draft resolution at 9:30 a.m. and Washington and co-sponsors Britain and Spain were hoping for "Yes" votes from as many as 14 and perhaps all 15 council members.

"We look forward to a very substantial vote in favor of the resolution and no vetoes," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in a statement issued in London. "It provides a very good base for reconstruction, humanitarian relief and the building of good governance in Iraq."

Among earlier doubters France, Germany, Russia, China and Syria, diplomats said all but Syria were believed on board.

"Even if this text does not go as far as we would like, we have decided to vote for this resolution," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told a joint news conference in Paris with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and their Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov.

Syrian UN envoy Fayssal Mekdad told reporters Damascus had not been given enough time to make up its mind and might sit out the vote.

Since the draft resolution's initial introduction last week, it went through three sets of revisions before its sponsors decided to bring it to a vote. The bargaining occurred as the United States struggled to stabilize Iraq after the war to oust President Saddam Hussein.

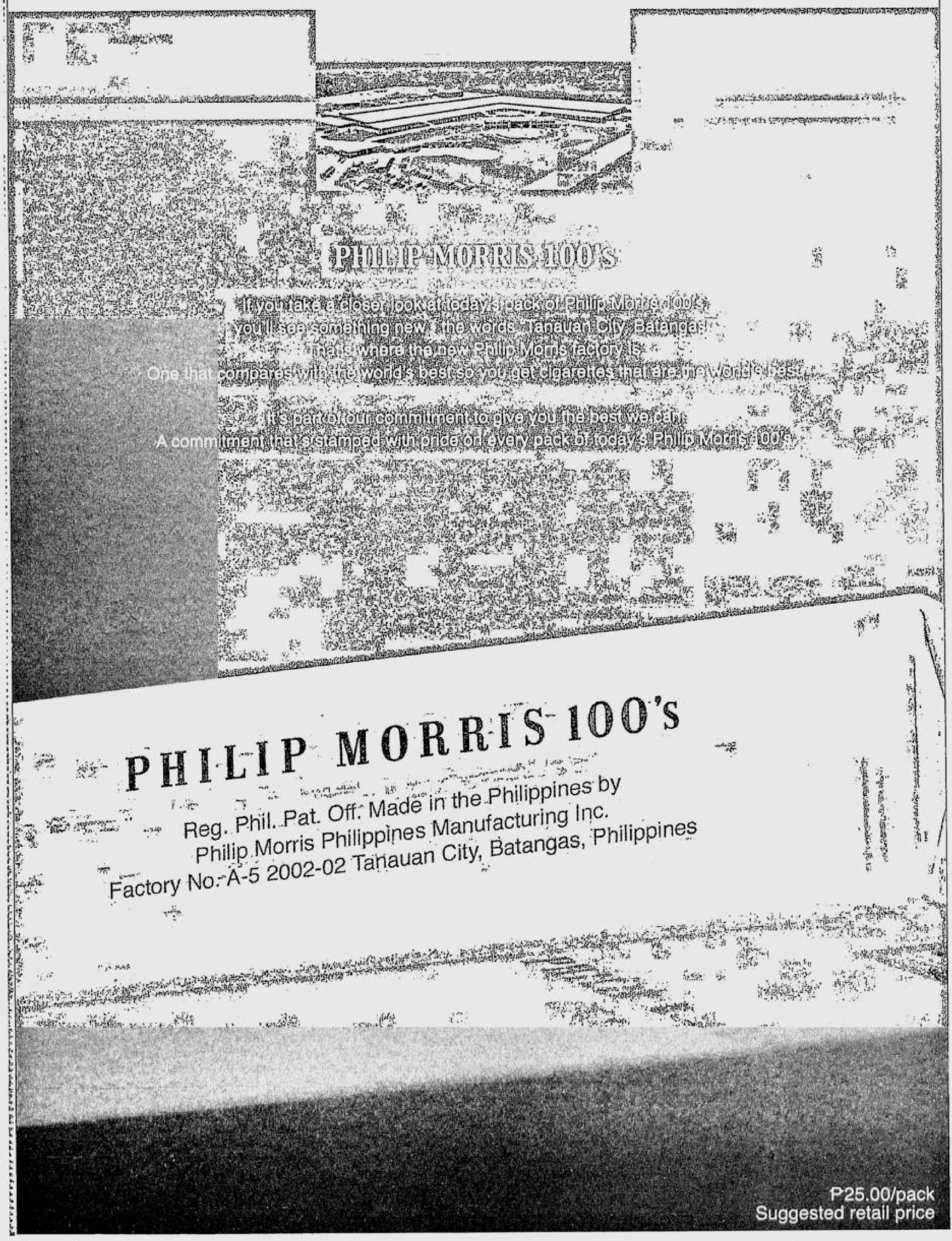
The UN sanctions were imposed on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But after Saddam's fall, the United States argued they should be quickly lifted.

The resolution would give the United States and Britain broad powers to run Iraq and sell its oil to fund reconstruction until a new government is set up.

Eager to mend the rifts created by the failed US drive for UN approval for its invasion of Iraq, Security Council members have gradually lined up behind the resolution despite the unprecedented authority granted to Washington and London.

A central question had been whether France, which infuriated Washington by leading the charge against UN authorization for the war, would vote "Yes" or abstain. *Reuters*

IRAQI boys refresh themselves in a polluted canal of the Shatt al Arab river in Basra early May. REUTERS



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US troops go on shooting spree in Iraq

FALLUJA, Iraq—Gunmen fired anti-tank rockets at a US armored vehicle in the tense Iraqi town of Falluja, sending US troops into a shooting spree that killed two Iraqis, residents said on Thursday.

There was no immediate comment from the US military on the incident.

Residents said they heard several explosions in the center of Falluja, 50 km northwest of Baghdad, at around 11 p.m. on Wednesday night where a US armored personnel carrier was parked.

A Reuters correspondent who visited the scene on Thursday said he saw the propellers of anti-tank weapons at the scene.

It was not immediately clear if the APC was hit and there was no word of any US casualties.

Residents said after the attack, US tanks randomly fired towards the city center, killing two passengers of a pickup truck travelling some 300 meters from the scene.

"They went crazy, they fired everywhere," Safi Jaber, a witness, said.

US soldiers later stopped an ambulance trying to approach the truck and a tank rammed the vehicle, the residents said.

The wreckage of the white truck was still at the site on Thursday.

Residents identified one of the Iraqi victims as a 19-year-old man called Hady Jaber.

"His wedding was supposed to be today," Khalil Ibrahim, an electrical engineer, said.

Many shops were damaged by tank fire and a car spare parts shop was completely destroyed. *Reuters*

Al-Qaida calls for more suicide attacks vs West

DUBAI—Osama bin Laden's top lieutenant called Wednesday on Muslims to carry out more suicide attacks against Western targets amid terror warnings in Saudi Arabia and the United States, in a taped message attributed to him.

In the message aired by Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite channel, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, number two in the al-Qaida terror network, urged Muslims to force Westerners out of their lands by attacking them and emulating the Sept. 11, 2001 suicide hijackings in the United States.

"O Muslims, muster your resolve and hit the embassies of America, England, Australia and Norway, their interests, their companies and their employees... Set the ground ablaze under their feet... Kick these criminals out of your homelands," said the voice.

"Do not allow the Americans, British, Australians, Norwegians and other Crusaders, the killers of your brethren in Iraq, to live in your countries and benefit from their resources."

"Learn the lesson from your 19 brethren who attacked America with their planes, in New York and Washington, wreaking on it unprecedented havoc from which it is still reeling," Zawahiri said in a reference to the Sept. 11 attacks that struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"The Crusaders and Jews understand only the language of killing and blood. They can only be persuaded through returning coffins, devastating interests, burning towers and collapsed economies," the voice intoned.

Zawahiri, whose remarks appeared to have been made during the US-led war on Iraq which led to Saddam Hussein's ouster last month, lashed out at Arab countries he said helped the US-led military campaign.

Muslim rulers had been "unmasked" by granting the United States facilities to attack Iraq and hosting troops of the US-led coalition, he said, naming Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan.

"Here is Saudi Arabia (allowing) planes to take off from its airfields, here is Kuwait (hosting) huge armies marching (on Iraq) from its territory, while the campaign's command is based in Qatar, Bahrain, hosts the Fifth Fleet and warships sail through Egypt's (Suez) Canal," he said. *AFP*

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Farmers launch boycott of biotech firm

By Ma. Diosa Labiste, *PDI Visayas Bureau*
and Vincent Cabreza, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Some 7,000 farmers from all over the Visayas are expected to join a nationwide boycott of farm chemicals and seeds sold by a US-based company.

The boycott movement came after the end of a 30-day fast in protest of the government's approval of the commercial production of genetically modified corn (Bt-corn) of Monsanto.

In a press statement on Wednesday, the Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Ikauunlad ng Agham Pang-agrikultura (Masipag), which called for the boycott of Monsanto products, said 2,000 farmers on Panay Island, 5,000 farmers in Negros Occidental and 500 farmers in Leyte were asked to not to buy herbicides and seeds sold by Monsanto.

The farm chemicals come under the label Power, Advance, Round-Up, Direk, Machete, Maverick, Harness and Extra.

Monsanto's seed brands that are targeted for boycott are Magilas rice, Cargill, Dekalb and Asgrow.

The INQUIRER tried to get a statement from the company on the boycott but there was no Monsanto representative in Iloilo.

Georie Pitong, the Visayas coordinator of Masipag, said their members would convince their neighbors and relatives not to patronize farm inputs made by Monsanto in protest of Bt-corn.

Masipag is a national network for sustainable agriculture.

Profits

"Farmers will hit the company where it hurts—their profits," said Nilo Selguera, a farmer and member of Masipag board.

"The end of the hunger strike does not mean that the struggle against Bt-corn and other Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) stopped," he added.

On Monday, close to 100 farmers staged a picket at the Department of Agriculture regional office to demand a ban of GMOs in Western Visayas.

The farmers asked the DA to disclose to farmers and non-government organization the owners, location and the area planted to Bt-corn.

Luisa Habaradas, DA's chief administrative officer, told the farmers that Bt-corn is not among the crops being promoted in the region.

Genetically modified corn, or Bt-corn, has a bacterium "Bacillus thuringiensis" added to its genes. The bacterium attaches itself to a cell and passes a new gene to the corn's DNA making the corn less vulnerable to Asian corn borer (Ostrinia furnacalis).

The DA gave the commercial approval in December for Monsanto to distribute and plant Bt-corn in the Philippines, despite protests from environmentalists and farmer groups.

Trials

Monsanto had conducted field trials of Bt-corn, under the label Yieldgard, in Mindanao. Bt-corn is the first genetically modified crop to be approved for commercial planting in the Philippines.

Masipag said Bt-corn may cross-pollinate non-Bt-corn, spreading their alien genes with yet unknown consequences.

Masipag also raised fears that farmers would also lose traditional control over their corn seeds because they have to buy them from giant seed companies.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., head of the Senate agriculture committee, said the Senate may yet give critics of Bt-corn another chance to rebut Malacañang's decision to commercialize the genetically modified food product for rural farms.

Magsaysay told reporters in Baguio City that he scheduled another public hearing next week to accommodate new materials that a group of hunger strikers said would prove that the Bureau of Plant Industry had failed to examine the negative impact of GMOs.

Hunger strike

Hunger strikers led by activist Roberto Verzola wound up their 22-day starvation on Wednesday to protest the entry of Bt-corn. American Peace Corp. volunteer Andrew Haralam ended a parallel hunger strike here in Baguio on Monday.

But the government, Magsaysay said, is already focused on reinforcing agricultural productivity using new technology to cushion the impact of globalization.

By 2004, most countries are obliged to lift all trade tariffs under the terms of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In fact, he said, scientists at the University of the Philippines Los Baños have been genetically modifying Philippine peanuts to accelerate the commodity's protein content.

Magsaysay said senators have instead suggested a strengthening of government financing, infrastructure and resources to build a parallel organics market.

Religious color paints street name

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Lay leaders of Catholic groups here are opposing the move to rename the B. Mendoza Street after the late Felix Manalo, the founder of the Iglesia ni Cristo.

The Catholic Women's League, Soroptomist International and Venture Pampanga began mobilizing residents against the plan.

The INC has a chapel along the street, which was named after Kapampangan revolutionary Basilio Mendoza.

Despite his Kapampangan roots, Manalo had not contributed much to the province's history and culture, lay leaders said.

Pampanga is still largely Catholic, with the INC comprising about 30 percent of the almost three million residents. The province has produced the first Filipino cardinal, Ricardo Cardinal Santos of Guagua town.

Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, whom the city council asked to help seek the approval of the House of Representatives on the plan, expressed hope that the issue would not create a religious conflict.

"The councilors, in their resolution, wanted to recognize the contribution of the late Felix Manalo in the propagation of the Christian faith in the country," Rodriguez said.

Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, local priests and members of the INC have not joined the debate since Rodriguez informed the council that he had endorsed the plan through House Bill 5839. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Fake checks gang busted, say cops

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Police yesterday said it busted a syndicate that victimized four rural banks and several stores in southern Cebu using fake checks worth about P60,000.

Five suspects were arrested at about 3 p.m. on Wednesday in Boljoon town, Cebu shortly after they duped a store in nearby Oslob town.

Police identified the suspects as Gloria Dano, 37, of Basak-Pardo, Cebu City; Nenita de la Cruz, 30, of Tangbo, Samboan; Rodrigo Herrera, 48, of Inayawan Cebu City; and couple Edwin Salotello, 27 and wife Leah, 24, from Mandaue City.

SPO3 Allan Villahermosa of the Oslob police station said they recovered from the suspects several fake local checks and dollar-denominated travelers' checks.

The local checks were made to appear as salary checks issued by Land Bank of the Philippines to public schoolteachers, Philhealth employees, Pag-ibig employees and Philippine Coast Guard personnel.

Villahermosa said the suspects were able to encash the checks because they used fake IDs.

REUTERS

PATROL
The stepped up military offensive against Moro guerrillas continues to take its toll on soldiers and rebels. In Lamitan, Basilan, soldiers patrol the remote village of Colonia in search of the guerrillas.

Politics rears ugly head in rally on radioman's slay

LUCENA CITY—After an indignation rally of media men here Tuesday to denounce the murder of broadcaster Apolinario Pobeda, a similar protest rally by at least 1,500 participants was again held yesterday but with a heavy dose of political innuendos addressed to Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr.

Marching protesters and participating vehicles carried several placards that read: "Justice for Polly, Talaga!" and "Aksyon Talaga Para kay Pobeda," a sarcastic spin-off from Talaga's popular slogan, "Aksyon Talaga."

The multi-sectoral march was delayed by at least an hour due to the arrangement of participating vehicles that later joined the funeral caravan that brought Pobeda to his home village in Padre Burgos, Quezon in the Bondoc Peninsula area. He will be buried Tuesday next week.

Leaders of the city's political opposition led by Vice Mayor Dondon Alcala and at least five councilors followed the open 10 wheel truck that carried Pobeda's white coffin. The camp of Rep. Lynette Punzalan was also conspicuously present in the rally. Punzalan would face Talaga's eldest son, city Councilor Romano Talaga, in the next congressional elections.

The protest march stopped in front of City Hall to dramatize their allegation that the city executive was allegedly involved in the killing. However, no speeches were delivered during the 10-minute stopover.

When contacted by the INQUIRER, Talaga, who was in Manila, let out a stinging rebuke against the political opposition. "They squeezed the last drop of black political propaganda mileage out of Polly's death just to continue hitting me. They have already used Polly in their dirtiest and vicious political attack against my person and my family for the past two years, and it seems that they are not yet ready to let him rest in peace," Talaga said in a cellular phone interview.

He added: "I have full faith in the ongoing police investigation. I believe that sooner, Polly's death will receive the justice due him. I now asked them to wait for the conclusion of the investigation."

But opposition Councilor Nick Pedro said he was not satisfied with the way the police investigators handle the case.

"Why is it that until now, Polly's cell phone that could help unravel the mysteries behind his death is still in the possession of his family? It seems that the police are not interested in the information that the phone may provide," he said.

He also questioned the long period before the investigating team took into possession the victim's motorcycle that he was riding when he was ambushed. The vehicle was left for several days inside the compound of the Lucena City Fire Station near the site of the killing.

When asked if he thought the questionable conduct of the investigation was deliberate, Pedro replied: "I don't know." *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 375 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Farmers rap drunken cop at customs

A CUSTOMS policeman in Cebu City is facing charges after he was accused by a farmers' group of arrogance and illegally apprehending a shipment of rice owned by the farmers.

In a letter-complaint addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo, copies of which were furnished Rep. Benjamin Cruz and customs chief Antonio Bernardo, the farmers said a Sgt. Rey Lacosta apprehended four trucks of rice on May 16 at about 12:30 a.m.

Amelia Tenorio, the group's spokesperson, said in the complaint that Lacosta did not introduce himself as a customs policeman when he stopped the unloading of the rice shipment.

"Sergeant Lacosta, who was wearing a red T-shirt and short pants, was also under the influence of liquor when he impudently required the (truck) driver to present the original documents of the cargo," said the complaint.

"Although the documents presented were authentic . . . Sergeant Lacosta still accused the drivers of handing over counterfeit papers," it added.

"Without scrutinizing (the documents), he then grabbed all the documents," the complaint said.

Tenorio said Lacosta was with a certain Capt. Hernando Anonas, also of the customs police, and a Bong Gines during the apprehension.

Tenorio said Lacosta violated customs procedure in apprehending the trucks.

She said the shipment, which was made under the Farmers as Importers Program of the government, was fully documented and approved by the National Food Authority.

Documents were also received from the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Philippine Ports Authority, the customs bureau, the Coast Guard, Maritime Police and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police.

"Much to our surprise, the documents did not suffice Sergeant Lacosta's standards," said the complaint.

"It is disheartening to know that the validity of import documents is based only on the judgment of an intoxicated policeman," the complaint added.

Arrest warrants out for NBI men in wrong drug raid

By Suzzane B. Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Regional Trial Court has ordered the arrest of four agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and four civilian agents in connection with the Dec. 13 bungled operation that wounded six resort workers.

RTC Judge Ulric Cañete signed the arrest warrants against Special Investigators Arnel Pura, Teodoro Saavedra, Rey Tumalon and Danilo Garay.

Also ordered arrested were Lex Bonifacio, Eric Ayag, Joey Cal and Rex Cruz, alleged NBI civilian agents.

A return of the warrant on Wednesday showed the four NBI agents and Ayag and Cal have been placed under the custody of the NBI office in Central Visayas.

Cañete, who temporarily took over the case, signed the warrants on Tuesday afternoon on behalf of RTC Judge Augustine Vestil of Branch 56, who was on leave.

He, however, ordered the deferment of the arrest of five other accused in the charges of multiple frustrated murder with double attempted murder pending resolution of their motion for reduction of bail, judicial determination of probable cause and deferment of arraignment.

NBI Senior Agent Angelito Magno, who headed the botched operation, and civilian agents Paul Lauro, Allan Magallon, Dennis Pantano and Noe Dimaunahan had asked the judge to lower the recommended bail of P200,000 for their temporary liberty.

During the hearing of the motion yesterday, Cañete agreed to lower the bail to P100,000.

Six Plantation Bay Resort employees, who were returning home from their Christmas party, were injured when NBI operatives mistook them for drug pushers and opened fire on their van on Dec. 13, 2003 in Mandaue City.

The Visayas Ombudsman had filed cases against the NBI men and their civilian agents after it found them criminally liable for the botched operation.

It also ordered the dismissal from service of the five NBI agents for grave misconduct and the six-month suspension of then NBI Cebu director Romulo Manapsal.

"Although the prosecutors have valid grounds but these are constitutional rights which must prevail over the procedural rights," the judge said.

Prosecutors Samuel Malazarte and Ralph Venerando Santiago from the Visayas Ombudsman strongly opposed the motion to lower bail.

The reduced bail initially applied to Pura, Saavedra, Tumalon, Garay and Cal being the ones who filed the motion. But the judge later amended his order to include the other accused, should the court issue warrants against them.

Agents Pura, Saavedra, Tumalon and Danilo Garay and alleged CAs Cal and Ayag "voluntarily surrendered" to the NBI office.

Fresh offensives dash evacuees' hopes of home

From page A1

hopes of thousands of evacuees here and in Pagalungan, Maguindanao, to start new and peaceful lives.

And even if Ms Macapagal did not name the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in her order to the Armed Forces on the eve of her state visit to the United States, the evacuees are convinced that the secessionist group is the target of the military strikes.

"It could also mean that [the President] is simply waging war against the entire Muslim population of Mindanao—the Bangsamoro people, who all have family among the MILF combatants," an evacuee said.

Fr. Roberto Layson, OMI, parish priest of Pikit and coordinator of the Inter-Religious Dialogue, agreed that the President's order killed off the little hope left among the evacuees to start afresh.

The very visible presence of Marine troops in Pikit is reinforcing the sense of despair.

"The government declared victory after the February war here, and now here come these troops again," Layson said. "This means something bad for us and for the evacuees."

Akmad added: "When I saw them coming, I asked myself, 'When will all these end?'"

Asked what she would do in view of the President's order, a Christian-Muslim mother of five said: "Fight! What can we do? She ordered that, so let's expect the worst."

Politics behind war

During small talk at the evacuation centers, the displaced residents speculate that politics is behind the new war.

Mama, an evacuee from the Buliok complex, said it was the President's supposed "ambition" to seek a mandate in the 2004 election that triggered her order to the military last week.

Speaking in the vernacular, Mama said: "The President declared earlier that she's not running in the next election. She has to keep that promise, although it's her ambition to be the President of this country again. In order for her to remain at her post, she has to declare war until the election period, making the election impossible to conduct."

According to Mama, the lives of the Bangsamoro people are again imperiled because of Ms Macapagal's political ambition.

"We have a President who is out to destroy the lives of the Bangsamoro," he said. "We already experienced difficulty during the past wars. And now, the President is delivering more hardship to us."

Layson, however, expressed admiration for the evacuees: "I salute these people. I admire their resiliency. In six years, they have evacuated four times."

But he lamented the lack of choice in their lives. "They have to bear and accept the reality," he said.

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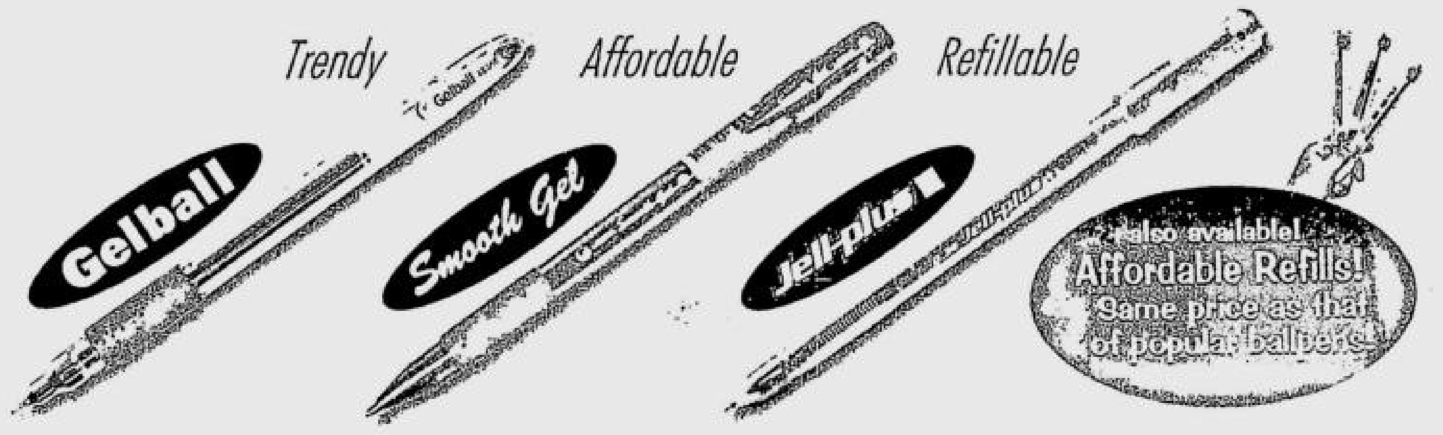

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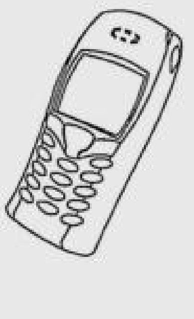

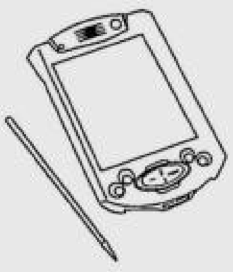

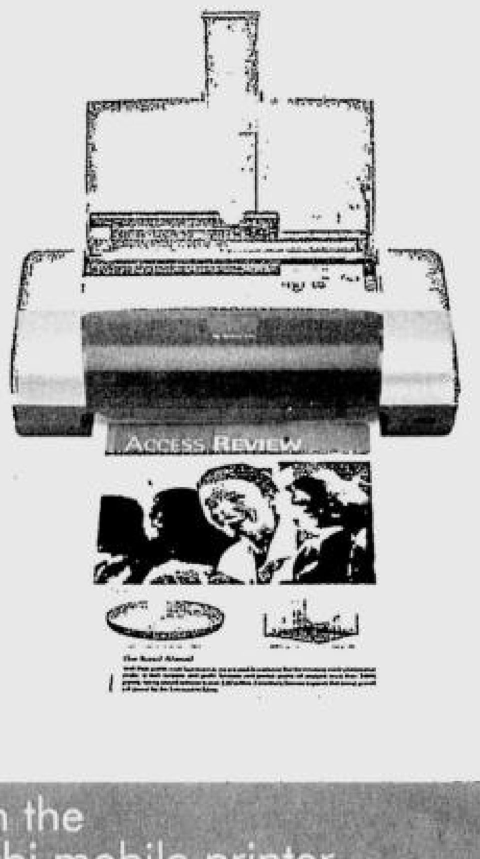

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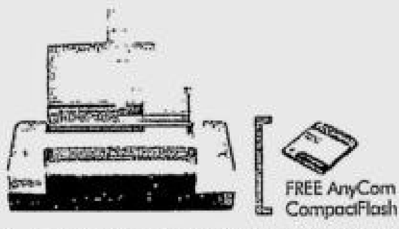

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Gloria sticks to decision not to run

From page A1

pagal said when asked about what might change her mind.

A congressman, who was part of the President's delegation, said Ms Macapagal's "no comment answer" in Washington to questions about the possibility of her running in 2004 with Bush's blessing had put suspense back into the run-up to the presidential race.

Suspense back

"It's back to the way it was before she made that announcement (on Dec. 30, 2002 that she was not running). She made it in the spirit of putting an end to political bickering. It did not. Now the suspense is back in the political situation. It's good," Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said Ms Macapagal may run in 2004 because of the support she was getting from US President George W. Bush. "From all indications, the President seems to be ready (to run for) President (because of) her actuation, her body language," the maverick senator said.

During the press conference, the President refused to answer more questions about her plans for 2004. "I want to define the agenda of this press conference. It's about the gains of the state visit. It's not about politics. I did not sacrifice my political (life) just to accommodate all your curiosity about politics."

The INQUIRER was asking her how the momentum of the "revitalized" RP-US relations she and Bush had achieved could be sustained after the May 2004 elections.

"If you work on a template and it works, it becomes virtually irreversible. Like if we're able to get our workers in Iraq, will May 2004 bring them back? If we get GSP (General System of Preferences) privileges as we are getting them and expanding them, will May 2004 cancel them? If we have a $300-million investment from a specific company, will that company pull out after putting in the first $50 million?" she said.

Visibly irked

When a reporter in Manila, who was put on the teleconferencing line, asked about the INQUIRER headline "Triumphant GMA seen running in '04," the President was on the verge of flaring up. "You're so fixated on 2004," a visibly irked Ms Macapagal said.

"My focus is on what I need to do in the next 14 months. And if you're fixated on that, I'm not going to feed your insatiable appetite for the wrong issues," she said with a stern look.

But while Ms Macapagal was dealing angrily with the questions, her allies were saying that she should reconsider her Dec. 30 decision.

Strong pressure

De Venecia and Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez said there was strong pressure from Filipino-Americans and from party members on Ms Macapagal.

"They think she should reconsider," said Alvarez, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers.

"I don't know if she will reconsider but definitely, she has to listen to the sentiments of party leaders who want the leadership to come from inside. Otherwise, there's going to be an erosion (of confidence)," said Alvarez, also a member of Ms Macapagal's delegation.

De Venecia said he would call for a meeting of the ruling Lakas-UMD on the first week of June to begin the process of selecting its presidential and senatorial candidates.

Alvarez said Ms Macapagal's good relations with Bush would certainly weigh in her favor. "It might well be because if I were Bush, I'd like to have a partnership with someone who will carry on a program that responds to mine," he said.

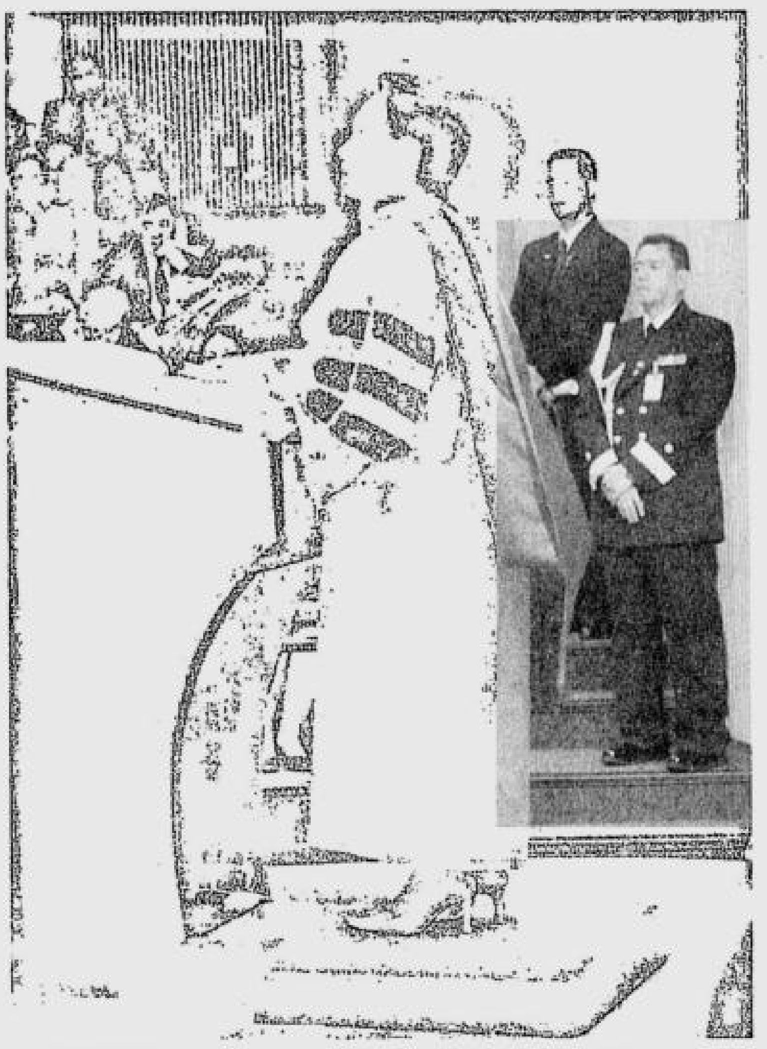
'Buddy-buddy'

In the Senate, Arroyo also said Bush would surely support Ms Macapagal should she decide to seek a full six-year term.

Mr. Bush and Ms Macapagal "are buddy-buddy," he said at a press conference.

"From the point of view of the US (officials), they'd rather deal with President Gloria because their relationship is already established and warm," Arroyo said. "They would not want to court another Philippine president ... or establish another linkage with a new president. *Suki na iyan si* President Gloria."

Arroyo pointed out that Ms Macapagal was still on "cloud 9," thus it was expected that she would rethink her Dec. 30 pronouncement. "To begin with, nobody took her seriously (when she said so," he said.



CONFERRED an honorary doctorate of laws degree on Thursday, President Macapagal addresses her audience at the James Mcnally Amphitheatre, Fordham Law School Building in New York.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Not chiseled in stone

Sen. Ralph Recto, another administration senator, said Ms Macapagal's Dec. 30 pronouncement was not "chiseled in stone."

"She's qualified for another term, so no felony is committed if she changes her mind," Recto said. "With this pressure for her to run, then it is safe to say that it ain't over until the petite lady sings."

Another administration senator, Robert Barbers, described as a "welcome development for the country and for the people" reports that the President might consider seeking reelection.

He said that although she had announced that she would not run, "I believe she will listen to the voice of the people if they want her to stay on as Chief Executive of the land."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said in Baguio City that the People Power Coalition was ready to support Ms Macapagal once she declared herself available for the presidential election. The PPC is the administration coalition composed of Lakas, the Liberal Party, Aksyon Demokratiko, Reporma and Promdi.

As expected, opposition senators were not optimistic about the whole idea.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said a flip-flop by Ms Macapagal would be "bad" for her." A politician who doesn't keep her word is (doomed). It would be the end of the road (for the President)," Pimentel said.

Sen. John Osmeña, for his part, said that given the "residual colonial mentality of Filipinos," the state visit and the "royal treatment that Bush gave her (Ms Macapagal) are certainly going to push her popularity in the country."

However, in the coming months—from June to September—that "popularity will wear off," he said, noting that public opinion is "fickle."

Popular in Washington but ...

"When President Bush comes (in October), I think he will short of publicly say that she should reconsider and run again. He will create the environment to persuade her to change her mind. With that situation ... she will be a candidate again. I'm sure," Osmeña said.

"If she is a candidate again, then she is again subject to scrutiny. And the glamour or glow of the Bush treatment will again wear off," he said.

She may be popular in Washington but not in the slums of Manila, House Assistant Minority Leader Abraham Mitra said.

"There must be something intoxicating in the White House state dinner menu which caused her advisers to lose their sense of reality," he said.

To Mitra, the reality is that "popularity in the Beltway (Washington DC) does not translate to popularity in Baseco (a slum area in Tondo, Manila)."

In Mati, Davao Oriental, Rep. Joel Mayor Almario shared Mitra's assessment that it will be hard to sell Ms Macapagal. Almario, chair of the House committee on Mindanao affairs, said the President was "not popular," especially in far-flung barangays. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Blanche S. Rivera in Manila; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Business ambivalent on possible GMA bid in 2004

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHILE President Macapagal-Arroyo scored major points in her state visit to the United States, her ambivalent attitude toward a presidential bid next year has made Filipino business leaders wary.

Business groups yesterday expressed concern that a likely 2004 bid by Ms Macapagal would "distract" her from dealing with more important security and economic problems.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, said that such "speculations would be bad" for the country because the focus would return to politics.

"Everybody knows that that (Dec. 30 declaration) was well-received in the business sector if only because we needed a respite from the bickering that was all politically related," Ortiz-Luis said in an interview at the 24th National Conference of Employers.

Renewed talk about Ms Macapagal's political aspirations would take "a lot of attention ... from the real job" as the speculations would be played up in the political community and media, Ortiz-Luis said.

The business community appeared surprised by reports that Ms Macapagal could still be fielded as the administration party's standard bearer in the 2004 polls.

Officials of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines agreed that it was "way too early" for anyone to discuss the 2004 elections.

Miguel Varela, Ecop chair, said the business community was bent on following the President's earlier challenge to focus on the economy.

He recalled Ms Macapagal's message to "forget about politics ... not talk about politics ... and just focus on the economy."

"That's the best statement (she made). We really felt that that's what the country needs because we are going through many problems," Varela said.

He admitted, however, that it was Ms Macapagal's prerogative to change her mind, "in the same way that she decided not to run" as announced late last year.

Ecop president Donald Dee said that the group would sponsor fora in the next few months to find out who would be running in the 2004 national elections and to help their members decide whom to support.

Dee said the fora would start in July. For now, talk of politics remains "a pastime" in the business community, he said.

"Right now, there are so many problems. We're not closing our door to supporting anyone. We're open to the best, who we feel can help the country; it can be her, it can be somebody else," Varela said.

The Ecop officials said they would wait for Ms Macapagal's return to see if she had indeed secured "substantial assistance" for the country.

Cardinal's imprimatur seen as key to GMA bid

From page A1

Wednesday or Thursday before the May 16 wedding of the First Couple's son Diosdado Ignacio.

The wedding was officiated by Sin. The President left for the United States the next day, May 17.

"It was purely a courtesy call paid by the parents of the groom to the cardinal," Limcaoco said.

Asked whether politics was taken up during the First Couple's courtesy call, Limcaoco said: "I wasn't there."

Asked whether the President met with the cardinal before she left for the United States and whether they talked about her running next year, an aide of Bishop Socrates Villegas quoted him as saying, "no comment." Socrates is Sin's spokesperson.

Sin has played important roles in the country's recent political history, starting with his opposition to the Marcos dictatorship.

Sin was a leading figure in the first People Power revolt in February 1986 that ousted Ferdinand Marcos, a role the Church leader reprised in Edsa II in January 2001 that kicked out President Joseph Estrada.

INQUIRER sources said Wednesday that because of the success of Ms Macapagal's trip to the United States, the chances that she will seek reelection have risen from almost zero prior to the trip to "50-50."

In an interview over radio station dzEC, Heherson Alvarez, a stalwart in the ruling Lakas-UMD party, urged Ms Macapagal "not to close her decision because it won't be good to the party."

Alvarez, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino communities and part of the official delegation to the United States, was referring to Ms Macapagal's announcement last Dec. 30 that she would not be seeking reelection in 2004.

Ms Macapagal and Speaker Jose de Venecia are co-chairs of the Lakas-UMD party.

"It would create a vacuum (in the party if the President doesn't run)," Alvarez said.

Strictly business ...

From page A1

With a straight face, Sotto yesterday defended the television commercials featuring businessman and prospective presidential candidate Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as a corporate strategy.

"If there's anything that comes afterward, that is politically, then that is a bonus," said Sotto, who was vice mayor of Quezon City before his popularity as a TV emcee landed him in the Senate.

Sotto said people close to Cojuangco told him that the commercial—in which Cojuangco announces the name change of La Tondeña Distillers Inc. to Ginebra San Miguel Inc.—was actually in response to the bid of Lucio Tan's Tanduay Distillers to launch a number of gin products bearing the generic "ginebra" name.

Massive advertising

Ginebra San Miguel is a subsidiary of San Miguel Corp., one of the country's largest companies. Cojuangco is SMC chair, but the Philippine Commission on Good Government is effectively its largest stockholder.

Sotto said his sources told him it was "the decision of the corporate bigwigs in San Miguel to fight this (challenge) out" through massive advertising.

The intention of these ads, he said, was to "rub in the fact that Ginebra is connected to San Miguel."

He agreed that this move would help Ginebra San Miguel "keep a firm hold" on the Ginebra name.

He failed to say, however, why Ginebra did not use the services of celebrity endorsers, or even the players of the famous Ginebra San Miguel professional basketball team, to announce the name change.

Cojuangco, who lost in the 1992 presidential election, is being courted by both the administration and main opposition parties. He has said he was not all that certain he was interested in running for the country's highest office again, because of the sacrifice it would entail.

2004 elections

In the last several weeks, several television commercials featuring prospective candidates in the 2004 national elections have come out.

These include the tandem of reelectionist Sen. Robert Barbers and Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri, who caution the public against the illegal drug menace in their TV commercial.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has declared his intention to run for President, has also been featured in TV ads.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has appeared in a series of ads for the National Disaster Coordinating Council, which he heads.

Yesterday, Reyes continued to remain silent concerning questions about the identities of his financial supporters, including those whom he said paid for the ads.

In a phone conversation with defense reporters in Camp Aguinaldo, Reyes merely said he had many supporters.

The Office of Civil Defense said the ads were produced by its "institutional partners." The OCD, through administrator Melchor Rosales, had earlier said that Reyes would identify the partners himself. *With a report from Martin Marfil*

Model father pleads guilty to killing Fil-Am wife ...

From page A1

spokesperson Michael Sommermeyer said.

Rundle faced the death penalty if he had been convicted of killing his 63-year-old wife, Shirley, with a baseball bat.

The investigation was delayed initially while Las Vegas police checked a note that Rundle had left in the family home saying he and his wife had gone to the Philippines, where Shirley had relatives.

Rundle's defense lawyers told a jury during the trial that Rundle killed his wife in self-defense. Her bludgeoned body was found on Aug. 20, 2003 near Susanville in northern California, and was identified through dental records.

Previously, Rundle claimed his wife killed his elderly mother by tampering with her medication, and then hired two men to dispose of her body. Rundle also told police that his wife had increased the morphine dosage in capsules taken by Willa Rundle, 87.

Rundle has insisted that he didn't know the location of his mother's body, and police said it has not been found. It remains unclear how Rundle's mother died, Sommermeyer said. Police think the mother was killed in 1996.

Rundle was the object of a manhunt that led investigators from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Seattle, Washington, to Fredericksburg, Virginia, and to Orlando, Florida, where he was arrested.

According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Rundle first came to the public's attention when a Las Vegas organization honored him as a model father in 1986.

Shortly after Rundle married Shirley a year later, his 11-year-old son Richie was run down on a sidewalk in a drunken driving crash. Richie was killed as he pushed his best friend out of the path of the drunken woman driver.

WILLIAM RUNDLE with wife Shirley: A cross-country manhunt that led to a confession.

Richie was hailed a hero and an elementary school was named in his honor. The woman driver, then 22, was convicted and sent to prison after a high-profile trial.

Missing couple

The Rundle couple again made the headlines in August last year when Shirley's daughter, Magda Belen, reported them missing. Belen found a note in the garage of the couple's four-bedroom home in Las Vegas Valley. The note read, "Alarm is set! Be home 9-6. Emergency trip to the Philippines!"

According to the Review-Journal, Shirley's relatives in the Philippines told police that they had not seen the Rundle couple. At about the same time, the sheriff's department in Lassen County, California, found a body near Poison Lake, which was later identified as Shirley's.

According to the Review-Journal, Las Vegas detectives searched Rundle's home and found bloodstains. They also discovered that Rundle had withdrawn more than $18,000 from accounts that he had shared with his wife and mother.

Police later discovered that Willa Rundle had been missing since 1996 and that her son had been using her $1,200 monthly checks from the Social Security Administration since then for his personal expenses, according to the Review-Journal.

After a manhunt in four states, authorities caught up with Rundle at a motel in Orlando, Florida, in October 2002. He told them the location of his wife's body in northern California. The sheriff's department in Lassen County confirmed to Las Vegas detectives that a badly beaten body had been found in Poison Lake two months earlier.

According to the Review-Journal, detectives believed that Rundle killed his wife in the living room of their home, transported her body in the trunk of his Buick sedan, and dumped the corpse in California. *Reports from AP and Las Vegas Review-Journal*

Fordham U cites GMA for tough anti-terror stance

From page A1

accompanied her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, in receiving the same degree.

He also said Fordham had conferred the honorary degree on all Philippine presidents "with two exceptions"—Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, whom "scheduling problems prevented us from honoring."

The quip elicited laughter from the audience of Jesuits, Philippine officials and other guests, including Ms Macapagal's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, their children and daughters-in-law, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and other Cabinet officials.

Ms Macapagal left New York Wednesday night for San Francisco. She and her family will stay in that city for two days before flying home.

She announced that she would return via Mindanao, where she would make her arrival statement in an unspecified city. She is expected to arrive in Mindanao on May 26 and spend one week there to review the security situation.

Ms Macapagal said she was anxious to return home following her successful state visit.

"I'm going back home earlier than you expect," she said in a teleconference with her chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao in Manila.

Jesuit education

The Fordham citation said Ms Macapagal knew well the Jesuit mission in higher education, having attended Georgetown University in college and from the Ateneo with a master's degree in economics. Like her father, she went on to acquire a PhD in economics.

In her response, Ms Macapagal credited her Jesuit education for what she had become.

"In a very real sense, [it] led me as though by the hand to that White House lawn," she said, recalling her arrival at the South Lawn two days earlier at the start of her three-day state visit.

Ms Macapagal said that if her father dedicated his presidency to the liberation of the poor from the bondage of the soil, she was dedicating hers to the liberation of the poor from poverty.

"I take the Jesuit ideals seriously—ad majorem dei gloriam (for the greater glory of God) and homo pro alii (a person for others)," she said. "These ideals are ever so relevant to the responsibility entrusted to me as President of my country to improve the lives of my countrymen, to ensure their safety, and realize their collective potential to become a strong nation."

She paid tribute to O'Hare, who taught at the Ateneo for 11 years just as she was working as an assistant economics professor there: "Blood and birth classify a man to the world outside. Dedication is what makes what he is inside. Father O'Hare is a Filipino at heart."

The other notable recipients of the Fordham honorary degree include the late President John F. Kennedy when he was still a senator in 1958, his brother Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Nobel Peace Prize laureate John Hume, Archbishop of New York Terrence Cardinal Cooke, US Senate Majority Leader and Nobel Prize nominee George Mitchell, and William Hughes, dean and professor of Fordham University School of Law.

'Mature relationship'

Ms Macapagal's speech at the Fordham conferment ceremony also dwelt on the RP-US alliance.

She said the Philippines had "graduated from a resentment arising from events long past and old misunderstandings to a fresh awareness of new possibilities in a revitalized alliance with its oldest defense partner."

"Indeed, in my watch, a new and mature relationship has been developing between the Philippines and the United States," she said.

"Today, that relationship covers a wide range of critical issues, from security to regional stability, trade and investments, economic reform and good governance measures."

Ms Macapagal said her visit had enabled her and Bush to develop a modern framework for RP-US relations for decades to come.

She said the RP-US relationship "is not just back on the same old track but is forging ahead in a new direction, marked by mutual respect and reciprocal trust."

But in Bacolod City, militant groups said the Philippines, as a major non-Nato ally, merited the acronym CHEAP.

CHEAP

"By CHEAP, we mean CHErished Asian Puppet," said Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. "The major non-Nato ally status is meaningless and is an insult to the Filipino people who demand genuine national independence."

The Partido ng Manggagawa said the designation of the Philippines as a major non-Nato ally was nothing for Filipinos to be proud of because it merely laid down the groundwork for more US intervention in the country.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said Ms Macapagal's conduct and mission in the United States was "deeply appalling" and caused "national shame." He also said Ms Macapagal had shed all pretense of being the leader of "a supposedly sovereign nation." *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Tribute to Pinoys

IN A PRESS conference in New York, Ms Macapagal said the Philippines had become a key global player against terrorism with its designation as a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally of the United States.

"It is a tribute to the proven vigilance of the Filipino people not only in this fight but [also] in upholding our shared values of democracy and freedom. It paves the way for a stronger partnership for a more secure Philippines, a more secure region and a more secure world," she said.

"We have laid a strategic basis for Philippine-US relations based on more trade, not aid; reciprocity, not mendicancy; and mutuality, not exclusivity."

She also said the RP-US alliance went beyond fighting the Abu Sayyaf to mopping up the "pockets of poverty" where recruits of terrorism were taken. Her state visit has resulted in a $4.09-billion "RP-US Strategic Alliance package."

Ms Macapagal said she would meet with officials of Bechtel, one of the US companies that won reconstruction contracts in Iraq, in San Francisco.

She told reporters that she would seek from Bechtel subcontracting jobs for Philippine companies and workers.

Marita Jimenez, Ms Macapagal's adviser for Official Development Assistance projects, said Filipinos might qualify for 30,000 to 50,000 jobs for the reconstruction of Iraq.

Cops assure Metro Muslims they're not targets

By Luige del Puerto and TJ Burgonio

MUSLIMS in Metro Manila are not targets of an anti-terrorism drive in the metropolis, Western Police District head Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said yesterday—a day after 75 people, most of them Muslims, were arrested in Isla Puting Bato in Tondo, Manila.

Bulaong gave the assurance even as he said to expect more arrests as police operatives continue "follow-up operations."

"They have nothing to fear. Our peace-loving brothers are not the targets of any anti-terror drive in Metro Maila," Bulaong said.

Bulaong also told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that no one is being targeted because of his religion.

Seven of the 75 collared were positively identified by "police assets" as members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The rest have been set free, except three who are wanted for murder and two more who are fugitives, Bulaong said.

The WPD chief added he is in constant contact with Muslim leader Datu Amirol Ambiong, head of the Metro Manila Muslims' Peace and Coordinating Council.

"I have just talked to him and updated him (about) the developments (regarding the anti-terror drive). I assured him his fears are unfounded," he said.

Ambiong told the INQUIRER the other day that he fears the raid in Tondo was a repeat of police tactics during the term of President Joseph Estrada, when Muslims in Taguig were also rounded up as bombing suspects, only to be released later.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, director for the National Capital Region Police Office, pointed out that the roundup of the 75 men was a "preemptive action" against possible bomb attacks.

"That's a preemptive operation. What are those explosives for? Why should we wait for something to explode before we make the arrest?" he told reporters during the inauguration of the newly-refurbished Station 10 of Central Police District.

"It's not material whether they are connected to the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) and the MILF because mere possession of explosives is a violation of the law already," Velasco added.

The arrests came two days after Police Director Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. placed the police force in the metropolis on heightened alert in anticipation of retaliatory attacks of the MILF rebels in Mindanao. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

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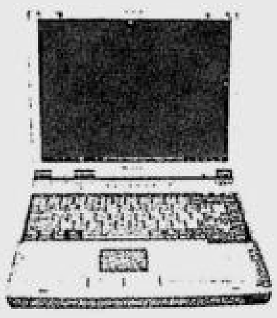

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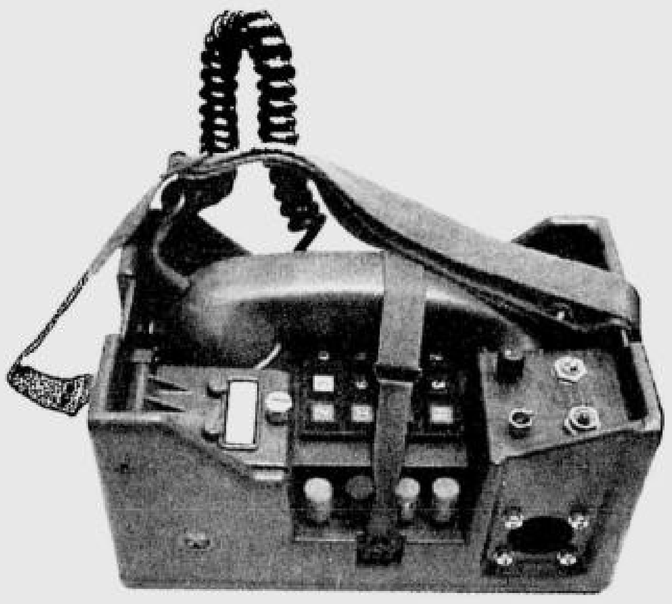

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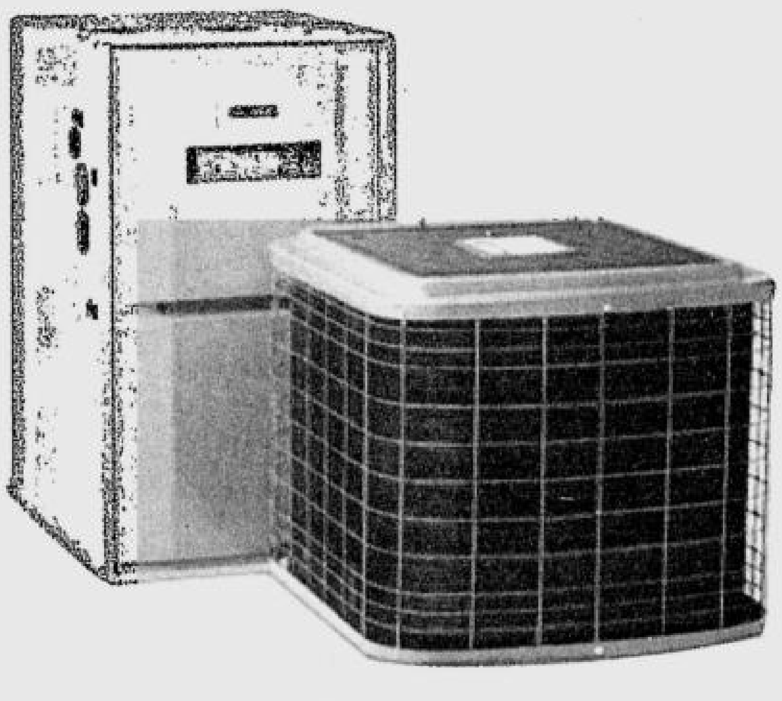

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From page A1

Two days before the May 10 bombing in Koronadal City that killed 10 people and wounded 40 others, Silvino Cinches, National Bureau of Investigation director for Central Mindanao, had aired a warning about the presence of five JI-trained "mobile bombers" in Mindanao.

Cinches told the INQUIRER the leader of the five-man team was a certain Commander Sawab.

Yesterday, Senga claimed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was protecting the foreign terrorists, the same argument used by President Macapagal-Arroyo when she ordered "selective" attacks on "embedded terrorist cells" on Saturday.

In Iligan City, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the government offensive against the MILF would not stop until the rebels renounced violence.

"This will continue until such time that we are convinced that these terrorists got the message that they should stop terrorism," Reyes, speaking in a mix of English and Filipino, told defense reporters.

Later, in Munai, Lanao del Norte, an alleged MILF town recovered by the military, Reyes said one objective of the selective attacks had been achieved. "We have successfully eliminated a terrorist cell that emanates from Munai town," he said.

But Reyes could not say when the attacks would end. "For as long as there are terrorists, *matagal 'yan* (that will take some time). The only way to stop terrorism is to fight it," Reyes said.

But Reyes said the government was still open to negotiations.

"If the MILF returns to the peace talks, if they will return to the fold of the law, we will welcome them. If they continue to terrorize the civilian population, we will apply the full force of the law."

Terrorist center

Soldiers took control of Munai, which Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko described as "the center of terrorist operations" in the province, on Monday.

Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said 118 rebels and 12 soldiers were killed in the fighting to recover Munai.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, disputed the military's figures, saying only six guerrillas were killed and more than 10 injured since April 29—that is, before the current offensive. He claimed at least 13 soldiers were killed in fighting Monday.

Neither claim could be confirmed independently.

In his Mindanao sortie, Reyes said the Munai operation took the lives of 13 soldiers and wounded 22.

A military report this month showed more casualties among police and soldiers than Muslim rebels in clashes from Jan. 1 to May 6, belying the Armed Forces' own field reports that scores of guerrillas had been killed.

The death toll rose yesterday, when an MILF leader and a government soldier were killed in a series of firefights on Tuesday in Maguindanao.

Belated reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo identified the slain rebel leader as Commander Abo Nasria Casim Tangki, field commander of the 202nd Brigade, 104th Guerrilla Base Command, Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force.

The BIAF is the MILF's armed component.

The reports said a group of soldiers belonging to the 37th Infantry Battalion clashed with 50 MILF rebels led by Commander Talio Silongan around 4 a.m. in Barangay Alonganin, Datu Piang, Maguindanao, resulting in the death of the soldier and the wounding of a civilian.

At around 7 a.m., another group from the 37th IB encountered a 60-strong MILF unit in Barangay Pamalian of the same town. Tangki died in this prolonged clash, the military said.

US role

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the idea that the United States could play a role in the stalled peace talks was actually first raised by a US Embassy official.

Biazon said he got his information from Secretary Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser for the peace process, who briefed senators yesterday on the ongoing military offensive.

Ermita had said the idea came from a "low functionary" of the embassy, Biazon said.

"So it was this low functionary which triggered discussions on the possible American involvement in the peace talks," he said in an interview.

Biazon cautioned Ermita against seriously considering the proposal because, the senator said, Muslim nations have been helping the Philippines in resolving the peace problem in Mindanao.

Ermita, Biazon said, told the Senate that the Philippines and Malaysia would hold talks on either May 28 or May 29 to "explore how to cause the resumption of the peace talks" between government and the MILF.

Biazon also said that contrary to reports, there were only around 200,000 evacuees, but this included those who fled their homes since January.

As it is, the "selective" attacks have turned several municipalities in Lanao del Norte into ghost towns, according to an inter-religious alliance based in Metro Manila.

In Munai, for example, more than 25,000 people have been displaced because of continuous bombing, the Moro-Christian People's Alliance said in a statement.

MCPA general secretary Amira Ali Lidasan also said Munai residents did not welcome their liberation "with a smile," contrary to the military's claim.

"The people are telling us a different story," Lidasan said. "They said they left their homes because the bombing and shelling in the area had been indiscriminate."

Other developments

- 60 Moro National Liberation Front members graduated from an officers' course in Tanay, Rizal. Once commissioned as second lieutenants in the AFP, they will be deployed to the 4th and 6th Infantry Divisions in Mindanao.
- Six MILF commanders and 91 guerrillas surrendered to the AFP in Iligan last Monday.
- An MILF leader being pursued by AFP troops urged the President to fire Reyes in order to put an end to the war in Mindanao. Yahyah Lucsadato, commander of the MILF 103rd Command based in Camp Bilal, Lanao del Norte, said Reyes was responsible for the continuing bloodshed.
- In Zamboanga del Norte, Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, 1st Tabak Infantry Division commander, said elements of the 44th Infantry Battalion have recovered the Sipakit complex from the MILF rebels led by Commander Aloy Alsri.

Only several abandoned bunkers were seen in the MILF base. No rebel was killed or captured. "They might have fled toward the coastal areas of Zamboanga peninsula," Salazar said. ***With reports from Aquiles Z. Zonio, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Christine Avendaño, Luige del Puerto; AFP, AP***

GMA lauds cops for foiling bomb plot

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo commended the Philippine National Police for foiling an alleged terrorist plot in Metro Manila with the arrest Wednesday of seven suspected bombers.

"This only stresses even more the need for preparedness not only of our law enforcement agencies but also of our local governments and threatened communities. Even the United States has gone into heightened alert," she said in a press conference before leaving for San Francisco.

Ms Macapagal said the foiled plot could be related to information about terrorist plots in the United States.

"If you want to ask whether they are related, in a sense they're related because terrorism is a transnational crime and these cells are in touch with each other," she said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

YOUNGEST at 18, Nuruddin Gampong is one of 97 MILF guerrilla who reportedly surrendered on Thursday at the National Steel compound in Iligan City. EDWIN BACASMAS

SEC names interim receiver . . .

From page A1

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said yesterday that SEC general accountant Roberto Manabat was assigned as interim receiver "for the restructuring" of the pre-need company.

Among the duties of Manabat are checking that the pre-need company is paring down its operating expenses and that it properly contributes to a separate trust fund for new plan sales, and drawing up recommendations on how CAP could cover all maturing obligations.

Bautista said Manabat would also have to determine whether CAP shareholders would have to put up more money for CAP through a JSS (joint and several signatures) agreement.

Enrique Sobrepeña, CAP president and chief executive, denied that an interim receiver had been appointed. He said Manabat would merely act as temporary comptroller of CAP while the pre-need company was choosing a permanent one.

CAP repeatedly pointed out that it had diligently paid all of its plan holders through the years and had not reneged on its commitments.

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METRO

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

FILE photo of the LRT2 train during its inauguration on April 5 with no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor.

Light Rail probed for ₱276M losses

By Abigail Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications and the House committee on transportation and communications have ordered a probe on alleged anomalies in the Light Rail Transit Authority that led to P276 million in losses for the government.

Negros Oriental Rep. and committee chair Jacinto Paras said in a statement that an investigation would have to take place as there had been some complaints that LRTA administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. and a certain Rico Garcia "connived with" LRT Line 2 contractors Sumitomo and Marubeni to fast-track its opening to coincide with Cruz's birthday on March 31.

He said the committee had also gotten reports that Sumitomo and Marubeni had up to June 9 to finish the project.

However, to be able to inaugurate the first phase of the LRT Line 2 on Cruz's birthday, the Japanese contractors rushed its completion but with an additional cost of around P276 million.

The complaints were raised by Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita and Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso.

LIGHT/A20

Search for Randy's body may take 3 more weeks

Frogmen to help and dive once pipeline is de-watered

By Agnes Donato

FROM three days to three weeks. This is the time frame the Manila Water Co. Inc. has set for it to find the body of Randy Diaz who fell into a ventilation chamber of the water firm last Saturday in Quezon City.

Manila Water corporate communications director Joel Lacsamana yesterday said that engineers are still working out a strategy to de-water the 1525-mm diameter pipeline to a level that would be safe for the frogmen who would dive to look for the body of Diaz.

"De-watering this main pipeline entails a lot of planning because the danger factor involved here is quite high," Lacsamana said.

He pointed out that the pipeline, which is full of water, was 1.5 meters in diameter and has a length of four kilometers.

One of the de-watering strategies calls for the punching of a couple of holes into the pipeline, which might cause more hazards, Lacsamana said.

He said houses which encroach on the Metropolitan Manila Sewerage System "right-of-way," are situated on top of the pipeline and that residents would be affected by flooding once the holes are punched into the pipeline.

Lacsamana also said frogmen from the Philippine Coast Guard would only dive into the pipeline once the water has reached a level that is comfortable for them.

"We don't care how long (the search for the body) takes. Our paramount concern right now is the safety of our crew and the divers," Lacsamana said.

"Anyway, we are not under pressure anymore, as we have fully isolated the mainline from the rest of the water system. That pipeline is now history. We won't be using it anymore," he said.

The Manila Water still has two main pipelines which it can use, Lacsamana added.

Meanwhile, an official of the Department of Health said the other day that a human body usually decomposes in three days out of water, but takes a longer time to decay when immersed in water.

But in the case of Diaz, the likelihood that the body had torn apart could make decomposition set in faster, said Dr. Maria Consorcia Quizon, head of the DOH's National Epidemiology Center.

"The rate in decomposition is different between a whole body and a body that has split apart," she said.

She said a whole body in water is likely to decompose longer as the skin can keep body parts together, even if the internal organs have already decomposed.

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Girl falls to her death in Greenhills

By TJ Burgonio and Nelson Flores

A TEENAGE girl in San Juan yesterday fell off a high-rise condominium—the same building where actress Maria Teresa Carlson leaped to her death almost two years ago.

The 17-year-old victim was identified as Abby Bay, the name her nanny, Fely Saavedra, gave to Camp Crame policemen.

Investigators yesterday said that the case was a probable suicide. They did not rule out foul play.

Police learned that the girl's father was from Singapore and her mother was Filipino.

According to the police report, the girl, who was still in her pajamas, fell from the 21st floor of the Platinum 2000, a high-rise condominium on Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan, at 7:20 a.m.

She landed at the barracks of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) in Camp Crame.

Several members of the TMG saw the girl falling to the ground, police said.

According to the report, Bay graduated at the top of her class at the Reedly International School in Pasig City last March. Her death, which is baffling investigators, also came as a shock to family members.

Elder sister, Ranza, 21, with whom she was sharing the condominium unit, was inconsolable. She sent their nanny, Saavedra, to the PNP Crime Laboratory to identify the body, police said.

The victim's father, James, turned up at the police crime laboratory at around 11:30 a.m., but refused to speak with reporters.

Saavedra, who last saw the victim as she was leaving her sister's room just minutes before she died, could not say what really happened, said a camp-based police investigator.

But Chief Insp. Mamerto Bernabe, forensic pathologist of the PNP Crime Laboratory, said this has yet to be confirmed.

Police waited for family members to arrive before conducting an autopsy.

"(Bay) sustained multiple injuries," Bernabe told reporters. "She had a broken skull and lower jaw."

It was learned that members of the family have decided to send Bay's remains to Singapore where she will be buried.

In November 2001, actress Maria Theresa Carlson, wife of former Ilocos Norte Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas, leaped from the 23rd floor of the same condominium and landed on the 3rd floor parking lot. She died instantly.

Malaysian woman rapped for murder

By Alcuin Papa

MURDER charges have been filed against a Malaysian lawyer for the death of her Lebanese lover in Quezon City on Wednesday.

Novia Sim Leong-Chun, 32, a lawyer, allegedly had a quarrel with her lover, Tony Ballian, 36, in their house on Jose Abad Santos Street, Sta. Cruz, Quezon City.

According to a Central Police District report, Leong-Chun had tried to stab herself when she became despondent after Ballian, a consultant of FF Cruz Construction firm, allegedly refused to marry her.

The two had been together for three years, police said.

When Ballian came home at around 6:30 a.m., he was surprised to see Leong-Chun holding a knife. The woman warned she would kill herself if their wedding plans did not push through.

Ballian was stabbed when he tried to grab the woman's knife.

Police said Leong-Chun turned herself in to investigators.

ERIK ARAZAS

LET YOUR FINGER DO THE WARNING

A heavily armed member of the national police's Special Action Force lifts a finger to fend off reporters. The SAF men are part of a security detail assigned to guard the United States Embassy in Manila, following the wave of terror attacks in Morocco and Saudi Arabia last week.

METROBRIEFS

New Caloocan cops

CALOOCAN City has 50 new policemen. Supt. Dionicio Borromeo, intelligence and investigation division chief, said the recruitment of the new cops, all city residents, would help greatly in maintaining peace and order in the city. He said the lawmen have been deployed in malls, churches, bus stations, government offices, vital installations and other busy areas. *Tina Santos*

One against three

INSULTED, angry and armed only with a bladed weapon, a bus driver took on three men who were armed with guns and knives in Quezon City the other day and lost his life. Chito Saldonido, 31, of East Fairview, Quezon City, died on the spot from a gunshot wound to his chest and stab wounds in different parts of his body. Police have arrested two of the three suspects. They were identified as Jose Madlangsangkay, 20, and his uncle, Pedro Madlangsangkay, 54, both of East Fairview. Authorities are still looking for the other suspect, identified as Joel Estrada, 21. Investigation showed the victim was walking home when he figured in a heated argument with the suspects. Feeling insulted, the victim challenged the suspects to a fight. Saldonido fought the three until he was allegedly shot by Estrada and then stabbed repeatedly. *Alcuin Papa*

Videoke bar blast

FOUR people were injured after a home-made bomb exploded in front of a videoke bar in Quezon City early yesterday morning. Victims Albert Llanes, 42; Teresito Declines, 62; Ramir Pereras, 41, and an unidentified man are all confined at the Quirino Labor Hospital for various injuries. Police said the incident occurred at around 1:15 a.m. in front of the EMS Videoke Bar on 14th Avenue, Murphy, Cubao. The victims were hanging around in front of the bar when a white Honda Civic appeared. Suddenly, one of the passengers of the vehicle lobbed the explosive device at the bar. *Alcuin Papa*

Fabric hijackers held

SEVEN men, who staged the hijacking of a van carrying P3.6 million worth of fabric in Parañaque City on May 14, were nabbed in a series of operations in Metro Manila this week, police announced yesterday. The suspects were collared one by one after the driver, Ernie Go, confessed that he and several others planned the hijacking. Also arrested were Jesus Lusong, 32, driver; Rodolfo Debotas, 31, helper; Julio de Dios; Oscar Villanueva, 56, businessman; Alfredo dela Cruz, 60, driver; and Conrado Santos, 65. Recovered from them were P200,000 in cash and a Tamaraw FX utility vehicle. *TJ Burgonio*

Marikina mayor to isolate drug-infested areas

By Nelson Flores

MARIKINA City Mayor Marides Fernando yesterday said that she would quarantine communities where illegal drugs are frequently sold and used.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Fernando said local barangay officials would enforce the quarantine by closely monitoring the movements of suspected drug dealers in their areas.

Fernando added that transients and visitors to the affected communities would be required to log in with the local barangay office for proper identification.

"We have done this before in Sitio Tumana, a known drug-infested slum area in Barangay Concepcion Uno," Fernando said.

She also stressed that the city government is working closely with the local police in forging anti-drug strategies. She said aside from securing usual logistical support for the authorities, the city has embarked on road and infrastructure building to increase police mobility and visibility in target areas.

The newly appointed city police chief, Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, told the INQUIRER the other day that 70 percent of all crimes committed in the city were either drug-related or -induced.

He said a number of densely populated communities are currently under police watch in a bid to monitor the activities of suspected drug dealers.

He stressed that the city is pressed with a menacing drug problem and that it would take "a Herculean effort" to solve it.

According to police sources, Marikina City has recently become the center of the illegal drug trade in eastern Metro Manila, triggering a drug war among drug syndicates that already has claimed the lives of two suspected drug dealers.

Earlier, former Marikina City councilor Sonny Parsons said a network of illegal drug dealers and runners is already firmly in place in Barangay San Roque, Calumpang, Concepcion, Tumana, Barangka and Sto. Niño. He added that most drug runners in the city were in their teens.

Burglars break into senator's office, steal janitor's pants

By Christine Avendaño

SUSPECTED burglars broke into the office of Sen. Robert Barbers yesterday, the third reported robbery at the Senate in a month.

Barbers said that whoever broke into his office stole a pair of pants belonging to the office janitor, and a copy of the book "In the Presence of My Enemies," written by American missionary and former Abu Sayyaf hostage Gracia Burnham.

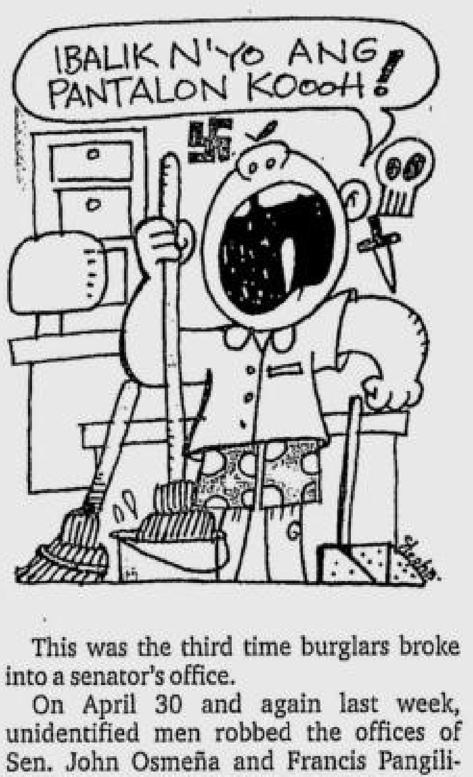
Senate sergeant-at-arms Jose Balajadia said a member of Barbers' staff discovered the burglary.

The culprits were able to enter Barbers' room through the ceiling, as shown by hand prints the suspects left on the white walls of the office.

Barbers, a former policeman, said that the burglary could be a ruse to divert attention.

He suspected that the culprits were after sensitive Senate documents.

Barbers admitted that he had in possession several documents detailing alleged anomalies in certain government offices.



IBALIK N'YO ANG PANTALON KOooH!

This was the third time burglars broke into a senator's office.

On April 30 and again last week, unidentified men robbed the offices of Sen. John Osmeña and Francis Pangilinan, respectively. *With a report from AFP*

NBI men hit 2 illegal LPG refilling plants

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents have raided two more plants suspected of illegally refilling liquefied petroleum gas.

Refilling and transportation equipment and LPG tanks worth millions of pesos were seized following the NBI raids at the Masagana Gas Corporation refilling plant in Trece Martirez City in Cavite and its warehouse in Kamagong, Makati City, and on the refilling plant of Excel Gas Corporation in San Jacinto, Pangasinan.

The NBI is spearheading a nationwide crackdown on illegal LPGs, following mounting public concern over the danger they posed.

The Bureau of Fire Protection said over 500 fires have been traced to the explosion of illegally refilled LPG cylinders.

The Department of Energy earlier had filed charges against several establishments suspected of illegal LPG refilling.

Ex-congressman faces raps . . .

From page A21

only fired warning shots so the bus driver would pull over.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Fajardo said Coronado and Manguiat were free to file the charges they want to file. But he said he would also file frustrated murder charges against them for hitting his van several times along Edsa, which was virtually free from traffic at the time of the incident. He also claimed the bus had tried to pin his Mercedes van against a wall during the chase.

Fajardo also said he believed that Coronado had been out to harm him but wanted to make it look like an accident. He said there had been three attempts on his life before.

Fajardo said he might also haul off to court a bus company official and its dispatcher and security guard for withholding the identity of Coronado immediately after the incident took place. *With a report by Khristina Villanueva*

Light Rail probed for ₱276M losses

From page A19

Paras said other alleged anomalies that the committee would be investigating included around P260 million in additional costs incurred due to substitution of materials and some design errors.

Meantime, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said in a separate statement that the DOTC would conduct a "parallel probe."

"I want those involved in the mess punished immediately if the allegations are proven to be correct," he said.

He also ordered LRTA officials to "cooperate fully with the House (committee on transportation and communications) by providing the latter with documents and other relevant information."

However, the DOTC clarified that Cruz approved two variation orders when he was still chair of the Variation Order and Price Escalation Committee (VOPEC) and Garcia was head of the Technical Working Group.

"Sec. Mendoza ordered the transfer of VOPEC and the Bids and Awards Committee to the DOTC from the LRTA last January to avoid conflict of interest by Cruz because the latter is also the concurrent project director for LRT Line 2," a DOTC source said.

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Ex-congressman faces raps for shooting at bus on Edsa

By Leila Salaverria

FORMER party list representative Mohammad Omar Fajardo is facing charges of two counts of attempted homicide and usurpation of authority for shooting at a passenger bus that bumped into the van in which he was riding last week in Makati.

The charges were filed by the police based on the complaint of Quezon Liner bus driver Sebastian Dario Coronado and conductor Rolando Manguiat.

In their complaints, Coronado and Manguiat claimed Fajardo had fired at their bus while it was travelling along Edsa near the Ayala tunnel at 10:30 p.m. on May 14.

Coronado said the ex-solon, who was was holding a gun, had signaled for the bus to pull over.

But when the bus stopped, Fajardo allegedly fired two shots at Coronado, forcing him to speed up, the driver said. He added that when Fajardo overtook him along Edsa, the bus accidentally hit the van in the rear, which made a sudden stop.

Coronado said Fajardo chased the bus all the way to the BLTB terminal in Pasay, while shooting at it. He said that when they reached the terminal, Fajardo pointed his gun at him so he hid in an office and a security guard prevented the former solon from following him.

Fajardo had told police the bus had bumped into his van, causing his vehicle to skid and almost knocking it off the Guadalupe Bridge. He also said he

EX-CONGRESSMAN/ A20

MISS MAKATI BETS
Liandrea Natividad (left) and Christine Marie Co flash smiles to photographers during yesterday's press presentation of the 13 candidates for this year's search for Miss Makati at the Makati Park and Garden. Mayor Jejomar Binay said that unlike other beauty pageants, the Miss Makati search gives more weight to intelligence, personality and character rather than on physical features. "The winner will serve as an ambassadress of goodwill to encourage potential investors in the city, considered one of the country's business centers," said Binay. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

School opening on June 9?

By Jerome Aning

EDUCATION officials are not sure when classes would open, saying they still have to consult the Department of Health to determine if school opening would be on June 9.

The date was the original schedule for classes to open before the Philippines was taken off the World Health Organization's list of countries with cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

"We welcome the de-listing but we still have to consult with the DOH whether or not to revert to the June 9 opening," Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani said during a weekly media forum at the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

Bacani explained that the June 16 opening would only be for the elementary and high school students, numbering about 19 million nationwide.

But teachers will still have to report for work on June 9 and undergo orientation on SARS prevention, he said.

Bacani added that beginning June 9, the DepEd will conduct a massive information campaign on SARS for teachers, parents and leaders of communities where schools are located.

The week before June 16 will also be spent in cleaning the school surroundings, he said.

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People buying from sidewalk vendors to be penalized, too

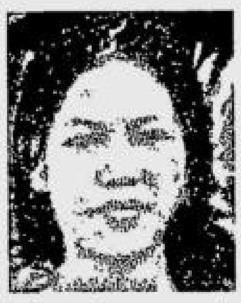
SOON enough, those buying from sidewalk vendors in Manila would be as guilty as the latter of violating the law.

Voting 11-4, the Metro Manila Council yesterday approved an ordinance urging all local government units to punish any person caught buying goods from sidewalk vendors in their areas.

Noting that "the proliferation of sidewalk vendors is also due to the support of buyers, the council said there is an "urgent need" to penalize those who patronize the illegal trade.

The ordinance deems liable those who buy from illegal vendors on major roads, parks, bridges, underpasses, overpasses and the like. The local government unit can decide what amount they want to levy on a violator. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Girl, 13, missing



CHERRY Galiza Valdez, 13, (right) of Blk. 5, Lot 15, Cellular St., PLDT Village, Soro-Soro, Biñan, Laguna, has been missing since April 10.

She was last seen in front of her house wearing a light green t-shirt and blue *ma-ong* shorts.

Anyone who has information regarding her whereabouts may contact Elvie or Ranie Ferrera at (049)8391787, (02)-8102601 or (0919)-7057040.

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Corso Guerlani	May 23- 24, 30-31, June 6-7
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DAVAO	
Gaisano Mall	May 22- 31
The Venue	May 23-24, 30-31, June 6-7
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Ireland lifts ban on RP special athletes

A TEAM of mentally disabled athletes on Thursday welcomed the news that Ireland has decided to allow the group to compete in next month's Special Olympics now that the Philippines has been removed from a list of SARS-hit countries.

Irish health officials originally had banned the Philippines — along with China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan — from the Special Olympics for mentally disabled athletes because those countries were listed by the World Health Organization as affected by SARS.

But while Ireland said athletes from the Philippines are now welcome to join the Special Olympics, the ban on the four other Asian countries remains..

"I'm so elated, because this did not affect only our athletes but the whole country as well," said Carmel Almendrala, the head of the Philippine team and president of the Special Olympics Philippines.

Almendrala said she was now going to the Irish Consulate in Manila to follow up the visa applications for 21 athletes, six coaches, 10 parents and two officials who will form the RP delegation to the games starting June 21 in Ireland.

The U.S.-founded event involves more than 6,500 people from 150 countries.

Alex Babst, Special Olympics Philippines national executive director, said Ireland's lifting of its ban on RP athletes was relayed to him yesterday in an email message by Liz Callery, director for International Services of the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games.

"We will look forward with great pleasure to welcoming your to Ireland in June and hope that the 2003 World Summer Games will be a wonderful and very special experience for all the members of the Philippine delegation," Callery said in her message to Babst.

The Filipino athletes will compete in aquatics, athletics, bowling and powerlifting.

Babst said officials of the Special Olympics Philippines will meet the parents of the athletes on Saturday to assure them that their sons and daughters will be taken cared of and will not suffer unnecessary sufferings or ridicule.

"We are welcome again in Ireland. We are all set. It would have been very painful on my part if I were to tell my athletes that they're not going," said Babst.

After the ban was announced last week, Philippine newspapers highlighted the plight of the athletes, who continued their rigorous training because most were not told by their parents about the prohibition. A few had learned of the news and went into a tantrum, Almendrala said.

Coach Rene Gacuma said he silently suffered during the training but kept up his hopes. "I was concerned that one of them would approach me and ask what they were training for. That would have been tough for me," he said.

Special Olympics organizers have accused Ireland of discriminating against the disabled, noting that Ireland has imposed no other restrictions on visitors in response to the SARS threat, which has killed more than 650 people, mostly in Asia. ***AP with a report from Tessa Salazar.***

WHAT'S INSIDE

Spurs even Western Series /A26

High school kid signs mega-million shoe deal /A26

Colonial becomes Annika's Alley /A28

Clemens scores 299th win /A24

No more acting for De la Hoya /A24

Get the buzz on Kris - from both in and out of the biz.
Gosh, isn't Colin Farell so yummy? Cute nya, sana magkasabay kami sa loob ng Phone Booth 2gthr. Ay! :-) heehee!
monday
You ha!? Always asking about the latest intriga in my life. Well, as long as u get the buzz from me lng. Wag maniniwala sa iba, bad yan!
wednesday
A woman bumpd in2 me knina whyl i was out. SO rude! didnt evn apologize! Hmph, fake naman ang PRADA nya! heehee :-)
friday
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Clemens scores No. 299 in Yanks' win

BOSTON—Roger Clemens earned his 299th career victory, scattering nine hits in six innings against his former team on Wednesday to lead the New York Yankees to a 4-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

Raul Mondesi singled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning to put the Yankees back into sole possession of first place in the American League East and move Clemens (6-2) one win from becoming the 21st pitcher in baseball history with 300 wins.

He is scheduled to try for the milestone victory at Yankee Stadium on Monday against the Red Sox, his team for the first 13 years of his career.

Jason Giambi hit a solo homer for the Yankees, while Nomar Garciaparra hit a solo shot for Boston.

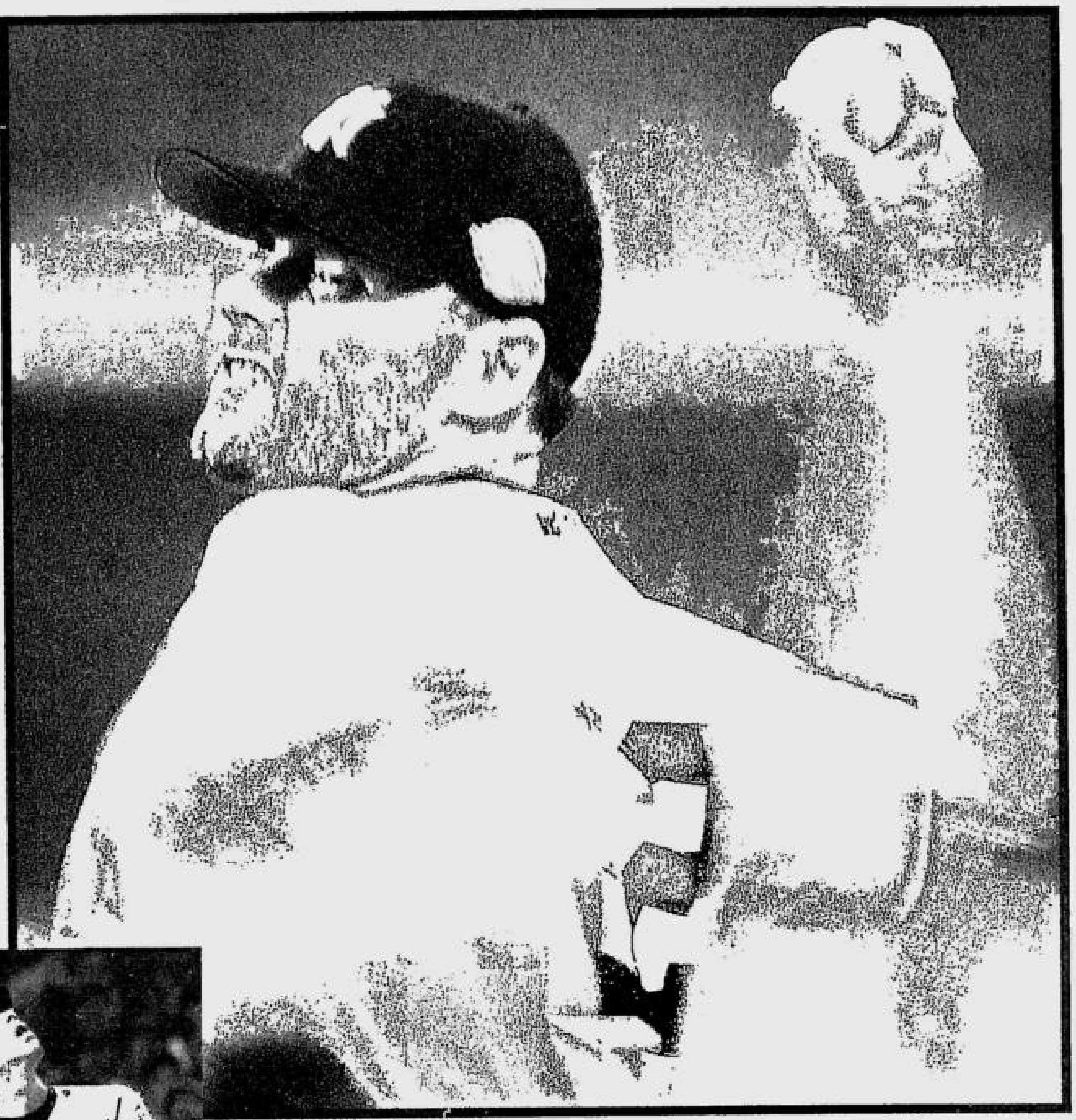
Mariano Rivera got the last four outs for his fourth save.

Twins 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Dustan Mohr drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to spoil a strong start by Barry Zito and players kept their tempers in check as Minnesota beat Oakland.

The Twins scored the tying run in the eighth off Ricardo Rincon, who allowed a leadoff single to Cristian Guzman. LaTroy Hawkins (4-0) pitched a 1-2-3 seventh for the win and Eddie Guardado worked the ninth for his 11th save in as many chances.

The benches emptied twice in Oakland's 4-1 win Tuesday that began a three-game series, a testy rematch from last fall's playoffs.



CLEMENS throws a pitch against his former team, the Boston Red Sox, in the first inning at Fenway Park in Boston. AFP

Torii Hunter hit a two-run homer that tied the game in the fourth and also made two impressive defensive plays, robbing the A's of a hit on one and a run on the other.

Chad Bradford (2-3) took the loss.

Indians 4, Tigers 0

In Cleveland, C.C. Sabathia pitched six innings before leaving with a sprained left ankle as Cleveland sent Detroit to its ninth shutout loss.

Shane Spencer drove in two runs for Cleveland, which has won three in a row for the first time this year and has five victories in its last six games.

Detroit lost its seventh straight game. The Tigers are a major league-worst 9-35.

Sabathia (3-2) was working on a three-hitter when he collided with Detroit's Dmitri Young at first base on the final out of the top of the sixth.

Cleveland took a 3-0 lead in the third against Jeremy Bonderman (2-7).

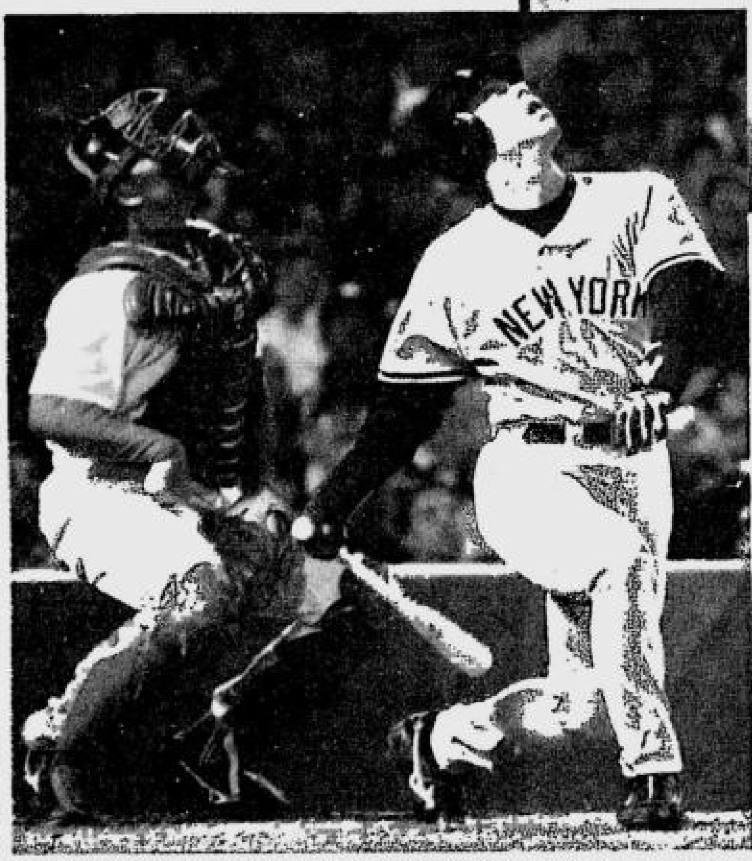
Rangers 8, Devil Rays 7

In Arlington, Texas, rookie Mark Teixeira homered, tripled and drove in a career-high four runs as Texas extended its season-best winning streak to five games with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Ruben Sierra's run-scoring single in the seventh inning off Jesus Colome (1-2) put the Rangers up 8-7. Sierra ended a 16-game stretch without an RBI when he drove in Rafael Palmeiro, who led off the seventh with a double.

Teixeira followed Michael Young's single with his third homer off rookie reliever Brandon Backe to give the Rangers a 7-5 lead in the fourth inning.

Francisco Cordero (2-4) picked up the win when the Rangers broke the tie in the seventh and Ugueth Urbina pitched a perfect ninth for his 14th save in 15 opportunities. *AP*



BLOOPER: Hideki Matsui of the New York Yankees pops out in the 9th inning as catcher Doug Mirabelli of the Boston Red Sox makes the play. AFP

Reds rally to repulse Braves 9-3

CINCINNATI—Austin Kearns' bases-loaded double completed a six-run fourth inning Wednesday as the Cincinnati Reds rallied to beat the Atlanta Braves 9-3 and slow their remarkable surge.

Adam Dunn later added a pinch three-run homer, his major league-leading 17th, as the Reds won for the 11th time in 15 games, a resurgence that is starting to win over fans. The crowd of 33,355 was the largest since opening day.

By dropping the first two games of the series, the Braves lost back-to-back games for the first time since April 11-12. Atlanta (31-15) had won its last 10 series, a streak that translated into the best record in baseball.

Atlanta starter Mike Hampton (2-2) walked three in the fourth inning and left with the bases loaded. Manager Bobby Cox, who turned 62, was ejected for the second straight game.

Chris Reitsma (3-1) took over for starter John Riedling and held the NL's top offense to two hits over four innings.

Pirates 5, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, Kenny Lofton's aggressive baserunning led to Pittsburgh's first two runs and Jeff D'Amico made another strong start in beating Chicago.

Jack Wilson and Brian Giles homered in a span of five pitches in the sixth inning as Kerry Wood (4-2) failed for the fourth straight start to win his 50th career game. Wood allowed a season-high five runs in 5 1-3 innings.

The Cubs lost their third successive game since winning six of seven.

D'Amico (4-4) gave up seven hits and two runs in 7 1-3 innings.

Mike Williams pitched the ninth inning for his 13th save in 15 opportunities. The Cubs loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth, but pinch-hitter Tom Goodwin struck out and pinch-hitter Eric Karros grounded into a double play.

Mets 5, Phillies 4

In New York, Tony Clark singled home the winning run in the ninth inning as New York ended Philadelphia's three-game winning streak.

Marco Scutaro opened the ninth with a single off Terry Adams (0-2) and moved to second on Roberto Alomar's groundout.

Clark then lined a single to right field and Scutaro scored without a throw. *AP*

Agassi, Hewitt face tough tasks in French Open

LONDON—Top-and-tailing the French Open draw, Lleyton Hewitt and Andre Agassi know they will face a mammoth task next week as a legion of Latin baseliners look to bury the favorites in Roland Garros clay.

Former champions and dogged battlers from Spain, Argentina, Brazil and Chile pepper the draw as the second grand slam of the year slides into action.

Hewitt may be sitting atop the world rankings but he is not high on confidence on the slow surface while Agassi must pray his 33-year-old legs can motor him around the famous Parisian clay as swiftly as in previous years.

The tournament is a showpiece for France but it is the Latins who are most at home and there will be no margin for error for Agassi or Hewitt as the baseliners snap at their heels.

Experience

Certainly Agassi knows it will not be easy but he has an edge the younger players are missing – experience.

"I'm at a place in my career where I have the luxury of using my experience. Most people who have my experience aren't playing any more," he says.

"My body is still holding up, my mind is still eager and my heart still wants it. So now I can use my experience."

Hewitt is equally hungry but realises it may be lack of experience which costs him.

"Maybe I have to work a bit harder on clay," he freely admits. "It's a challenge and I've always liked challenges.

"Whether I will ever win the French (Open) and master playing on clay, who knows? But I'll give it a shot." Juan Carlos Ferrero lurks immediately beneath the top two.

Runner-up last year and a semifinalist in 2001 and 2000, the Spaniard is desperate to go one better this time round.

Victories in Monte Carlo and Valencia in recent months are testament to his form.

Seeded fourth lies Carlos Moya, no stranger to glory at the Stade Roland Garros.

In 1998 he lifted the French crown and went on to take number one spot in the rankings.

Biggest goal

"Paris is the biggest goal for me," he warned all comers earlier this week.

Moya's vanquished opponent in five years ago was Alex Corretja, another Spaniard who will also pose a threat in the French capital, seeded 16th this time.

Reigning champion Albert Costa sits menacingly in the ninth seeded position. One of the fittest men in the sport he will be looking to replicate last year's heroics.

The power of the Spaniards is beyond question but it is the form of the Argentines which has grasped the imagination this month.

The nation made history last week when four Argentines reached the semifinals of the Hamburg Masters–marking the first time any four countrymen had ever advanced to the final four at a Tennis Masters Series event.

The historical feat was accomplished by David Nalbandian, Guillermo Coria, Agustin Calleri and Gaston Gaudio. *Reuters*

Mclaren rolls out new F-1 car

MCLAREN MP4-18 Formula One car REUTERS

LE CASTELLET, France—Championship challengers McLaren rolled out their new Formula One car for the first time on Wednesday with Austrian Alexander Wurz at the wheel.

"Of course, I'm very excited to be driving the MP4-18 for the first time. Everything feels great," the test driver said after an installation lap at Le Castellet circuit in southern France.

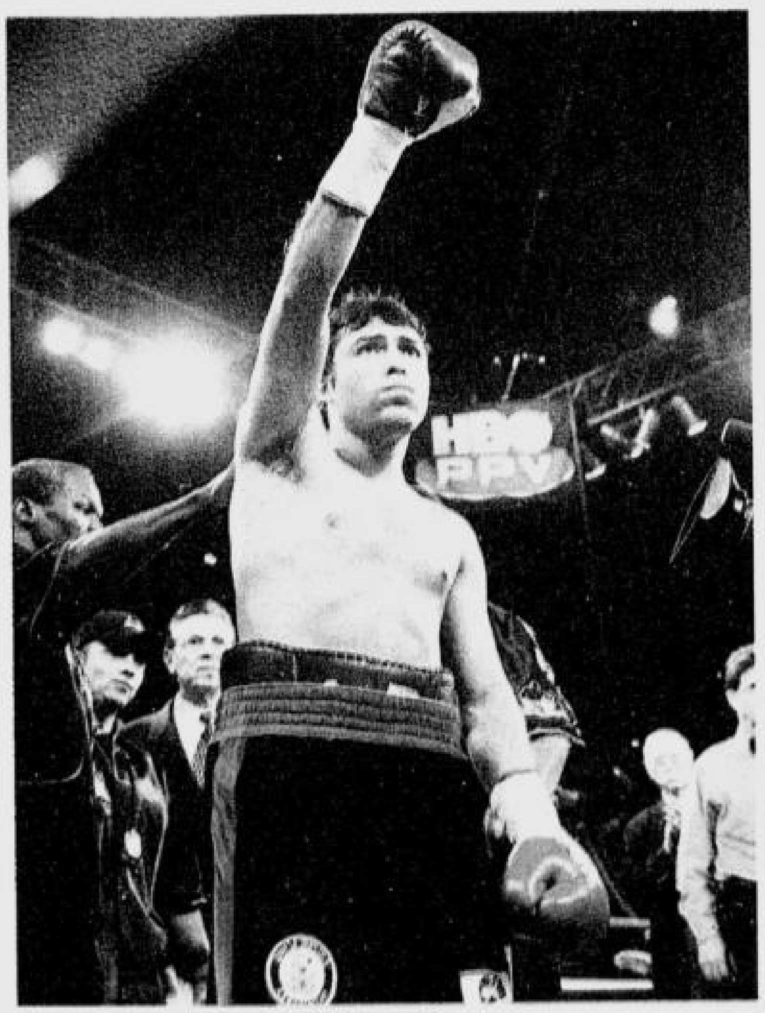
"We've had no real problems but, of course, we have to take it slow as always when you do the first shakedown, which is what this is, not a test. Therefore 'so far, so good'." The Austrian returned to the track in the afternoon for another handful of laps.

"It's a revolutionary new car and, therefore, we're delighted to now be running it," said McLaren International managing director Martin Whitmarsh.

"It's early to be making any claims about the car's performance, but we're very confident from the analysis and simulation we've already done that the car will definitely be quick," he added.

"Inevitably, there will be a number of challenges and issues that have to be resolved, as there are with any new car, but that is what we are going to do in the next two to three weeks." Technical director Adrian Newey said that the new Mercedes-powered car had "probably more research put into it than any other car I have worked on." *Reuters*

No more acting for De La Hoya



DE LA HOYA: Girding for the "big one". GETTY IMAGES

BEVERLY HILLS, California—Oscar De La Hoya doesn't want to be an actor or singer anymore. He just wants to box, and his entire focus is on his rematch with Shane Mosley.

"This is the big one. This is for all the marbles," De La Hoya said Wednesday. "I will definitely be hungrier than ever, more than what I was for (Fernando) Vargas, because the fact that Mosley beat me."

De La Hoya has sought rematches with Mosley and Felix Trinidad, the only fighters to beat him. But Trinidad says he's retired, so De La Hoya is going after Mosley.

Mosley defeated De La Hoya in a 12-round decision in June 2000 in Los Angeles.

"He never hurt me," Mosley said, smiling. "He hit me with a left hook and it didn't hurt."

Their rematch for the super welterweight title is Sept. 13 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I took the fight because I need to get myself back on top," said Mosley, who will receive $4.5 million–the amount he got three years ago.

"He's probably going to make close to $20 (million)."

But outside the ring, there's no animosity between the two local fighters who have known each other for years. De La Hoya grew up in East Los Angeles, while Mosley is from suburban Pomona.

"I respect him and he's a good man," said Mosley, who knows his importance to De La Hoya now that Trinidad is out of the picture.

"I'm fortunate to get this opportunity. At the same token, Oscar is fortunate to be able to fight me again, so we're fortunate to have each other."

Neither fighter knocked the other at a news conference, although De La Hoya's trainer, Floyd Mayweather Sr., took a few shots at Mosley by reciting an expletive-laced poem. *AP*

Seve fined in spat with Tour execs

WATER, England—Seve Ballesteros was fined and reprimanded by the European Tour on Wednesday after two clashes with officials this season.

He received his reprimand for ignoring a one-shot penalty and incorrectly filing a scorecard at the Italian Open three weeks ago.

The unspecified fine was for breaching Tour regulations in criticizing officials in public at April's Madeira Island Open.

"He put his side of the story and we have spoken to all the relevant parties," Mark James, chair of the tour tournament committee, told reporters on Wednesday.

"We know he was making a stand and not trying to cheat (in Italy). The view of the committee was unanimous but it is with reluctance that we ever fine someone like Seve.

"The atmosphere of the hearing was fine and Seve put his case...with eloquence and vigor." Ballesteros, one of golf's leading players for a decade from the late 1970s, left after the hearing but did not stay to hear the punishment. *Reuters*

Athens shrugs off worries on Olympic Games

NEW YORK—Let the games begin in 15 months. Athens is pledging renovated Olympics stressing ancient ideals of harmony and proportion, and a lot less commercialism, says Greece's top coordinator of the 2004 competitions.

Completing the Olympic sports venues on time and setting up terror-proof security are two major concerns, but Culture Minister Evangelos Venizelos insists that Greece will be ready for its biggest peacetime challenge of modern times.

"On May 5, we had the official opening of the first Olympic installation–according to the timetable–the international broadcast center," Venizelos said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"Now we have every week or two weeks another completed Olympic building. We are now in the same time frame as Sydney 15 months before" the 2000 Summer Games, he said.

A burly 46-year-old with a background in law, Venizelos coordinates all aspects of Olympic preparations, including anti-terrorist technology, athletic venues and the four-year Cultural Olympiad to promote the games.

He was in New York for "All Around Is Light," a Tuesday night gala of Greek poetry, mythology, folk music and classical ballet at the Metropolitan Opera. It's one of a series of Greek-themed performances, exhibitions and lectures being staged worldwide in the run-up to the games Aug. 13-29, 2004.

Athens' preparations are under heavy pressure from the International Olympic Committee because of construction delays and other planning problems. Venizelos, exuding Zorba-like ebullience and optimism, maintains that all major roadblocks are being overcome.

At an IOC meeting last Friday in Madrid, Venizelos said, IOC president Jacques Rogge was "very warm, very cordial for the Athens Olympics preparations."

Even if all the installations aren't complete next August, no one seriously contemplates moving the games from their ancient homeland.

The Olympics date to 776 BC in the serene town of Olympia, southwest of Athens, where male athletes from rival city-states competed in honor of Zeus–initially in foot races, later in boxing, wrestling, javelin, discus and chariot races.

The games lasted into the Roman era, then disappeared at the end of the 4th century A.D. They were revived in 1896 when the first modern games were staged in Athens.

The 2004 games aim to renovate Olympics ideals that have become lost in a deluge of commercialism, typified by rampant marketing at the 1996 Atlanta Games, Venizelos said.

"These will be authentic games of human measure, human scale in the classical landscape," he said, stressing ancient Greek ideals of "proportion and harmony."

Neon lights in Constitution Square, an Athens landmark, are being shut off to counter commercialism. Traffic-free pedestrian zones have opened in the congested downtown to encourage walking to ancient antiquities, such as the Parthenon and Agora market.

Greece is also putting pressure on Britain to return the Elgin Marbles–remnants of the Parthenon's frieze taken by a British lord in the early 19th century–in time for the games. Restitution would be a "very big gesture of international scale," Venizelos said.

The government aims to use Olympic-related infrastructure upgrades countrywide to improve Greece's transport and communications links with the "old core members" of the European Union, he said.

Better roads and other upgrades will also benefit the post-Olympics tourism industry, which already accounts for 10-15 percent of Greece's GNP.

The specter of terrorism, both homegrown and from the Mideast turbulence across the Mediterranean, remains a huge worry to the organizers.

Greece is spending $600 million on security, almost half of that for a secure telecommunications network being designed by a U.S.-led consortium, to keep military and plainclothes officers in touch, Venizelos said.

Some 45,000 security personnel, including 25,000 police, 10,000 from the armed forces and 10,000 from security firms and volunteers, will be assigned. *AP*

Fugitive in Olympic bid scandal arrested

SALT LAKE CITY—John Kim, the son of a powerful IOC member and a fugitive from US justice, has been arrested on 3½-year-old charges related to the Salt Lake City Olympic scandal.

Kim was arrested Sunday in Bulgaria on a warrant from the international police agency Interpol and faces extradition to the United States, FBI special agent Eugene Casey said Wednesday.

He is the son of Kim Un-yong, 71, a South Korean IOC member reprimanded by the International Olympic Committee in 2000 for his involvement in this city's bribery scandal.

John Kim was one of three minor players indicted in the tainted bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics. He was accused of lying to FBI investigators and 16 counts of using a fraudulently obtained green card for a "sham" job a telecommunications executive testified was arranged by Salt Lake's bid leaders.

Kim, who was living on New York's Long Island, fled to South Korea before his September 1999 indictment and never returned.

He is being held by Bulgaria for likely extradition to the United States for prosecution, Casey said.

In the main case, bribery racketeering charges against Salt Lake City bid chief Tom Welch and deputy Dave Johnson were reinstated by a federal appeals court April 22 after a judge in Utah threw them out.

The two men were accused of paying IOC delegates in the early 1990s with $1 million in cash and gifts ranging from medical care to US scholarships and jobs for family members. The scandal forced the expulsion or resignation of 10 IOC members as the organization tightened bidding rules. *AP*

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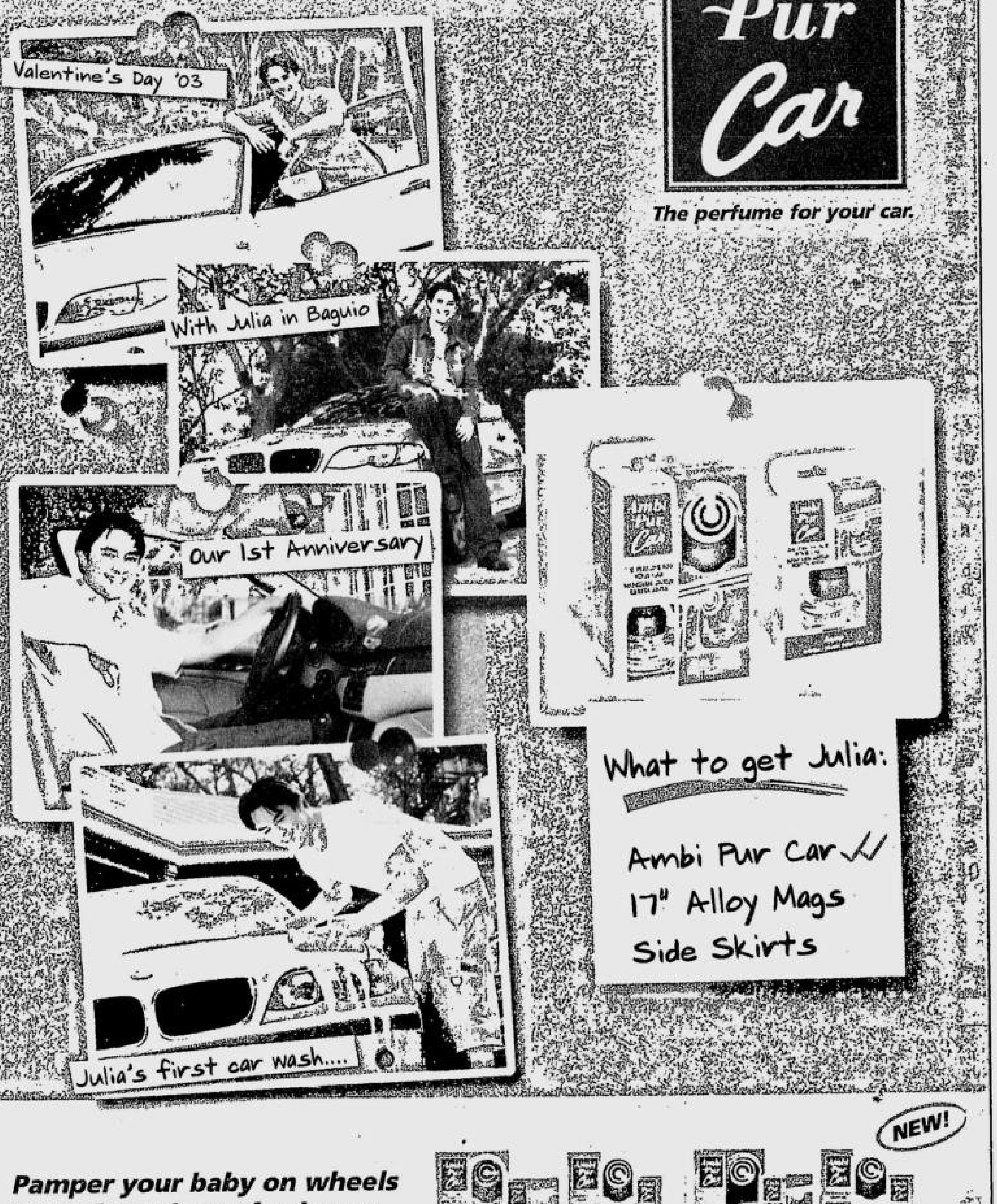

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AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

CONFERENCE FINALS

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (2) New Jersey

Pistons 0, Nets 2
Game 1: New Jersey 76, Detroit 74
Game 2: New Jersey 88, Detroit 86
Game 3 at New Jersey (May 23, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 4 at New Jersey (May 25, TBD)
*Game 5 at Detroit (May 27, 8 a.m.)
*Game 6 at New Jersey (May 29, 8 a.m.)
*Game 7 at Detroit (May 31, 8 a.m.)

Western Conference

(1) San Antonio vs (3) Dallas

Spurs 1, Mavericks 1
Game 1: Dallas 113, San Antonio 110
Game 2: San Antonio 119, Dallas 106
Game 3 at Dallas (May 24, 9:30 a.m.)
Game 4 at Dallas (May 26, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 5 at San Antonio (May 28, 9:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at Dallas (May 30,9:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 1,8:30 a.m.)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: The Golf Club 2003; 5:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Learn all the interesting facts and information from the greens and fairways across the globe.

PGA Bank of America Colonial; 5:30 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 4:30 a.m.; Star Sports - See if Annika Sorenstam can make the cut against the men in this PGA event.

BASKETBALL: NBA Draft Lottery; 8 a.m. (r - 12 midnight); Solar Sports - Find out who wins the jackpot in the Lebron James Sweepstakes.

Pistons vs Nets, Game 3; 8:30 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.); Solar Sports - New Jersey gets its brooms ready as it hosts Detroit.

NBA Inside Stuff; 8:30 p.m.; Star Sports - Get your fix of NBA highlights and interviews in this half - hour show hosted by former football player Ahmad Rashad and Olympic swimmer Summer Sanders.

SPORTS noodle

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Tiger trivia

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

☐ True / ☐ False: Tiger Woods has won all the four major tournaments: the PGA Championship, the Masters, the U.S. Open, and the British Open.

2 > 5 Pts.

'Eldrick' is his real first name. How did he get the nickname 'Tiger'?

☐ His first baby sound sounded like 'grrr.'
☐ His dad's Vietnamese military buddy was nicknamed 'Tiger.'

3 > 7 Pts.

Tiger's first (and, so far, only) appearance in the Philippines was in 1998 when he played an exhibition match against a group of Asian golf stars at which course?

☐ Wack-Wack (Mandaluyong City)
☐ Southwoods (Carmona, Cavite)
☐ Mimosa (Angeles City, Pampanga)

4 > 10 Pts.

How old was Tiger when he won his first major--the Masters--at Augusta, Georgia, in1997?

☐ 19
☐ 21
☐ 23

5 > 15 Pts.

At the mere age of 2, Tiger appeared on the TV program The Mike Douglas Show and played golf with which comedian?

☐ Bob Hope
☐ Jerry Lewis
☐ Sammy Davis, Jr.
☐ Bing Crosby

6 > 25 Pts.

At what average speed is the head of Tiger's driver moving when he makes contact with the ball?

☐ 110 kph
☐ 155 kph
☐ 196 kph
☐ 232 kph

7 > 30 Pts.

Between 1984 and 1991, Tiger Woods won all five boys' age divisions of the World Junior Golf Championships in California. Yet despite this supreme dominance, he failed to break the 15-under-par tournament course record (273) in the 15-17 division set by a Filipino in 1986 at Torrey Pines South in La Jolla. Name this Filipino whose fantastic record still stands today.

ANSWERS/ A28

Spurs even Western ser with wild and wooly win

A RARE shining moment for the Mavericks: Dirk Nowitzki towers over San Antonio's Tim Duncan. AFP

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan bagged 32 points Wednesday as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Dallas Mavericks 119-106 in a tempestuous Game 2 of the Western Conference finals.

The Spurs evened the series with Game 3 set for Friday at Dallas.

"We definitely lost our composure, but we knew coming in how it would be," Mavericks guard Nick Van Exel said. "Our focus was to keep fighting though it and play through it as best we could, but tonight it just got the best of us."

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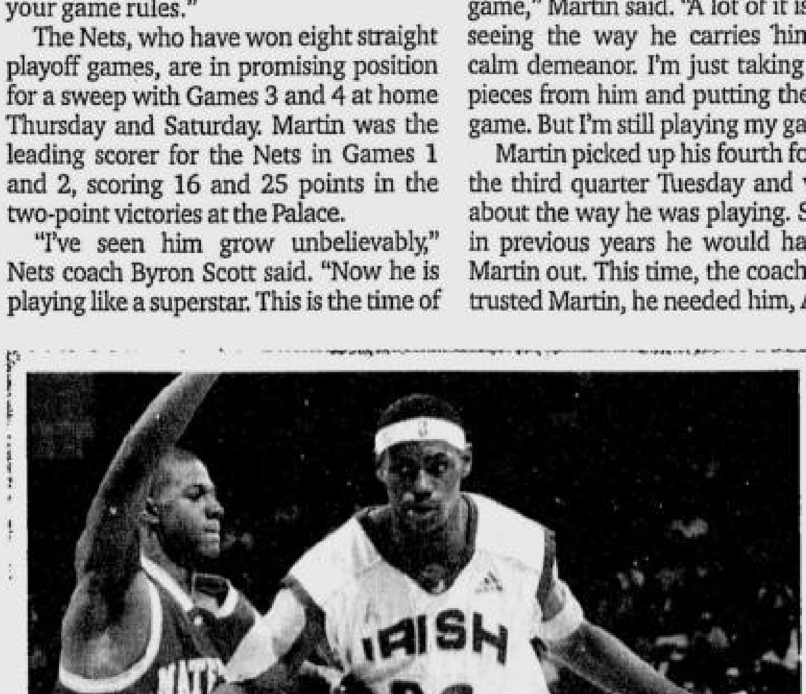

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

CONFERENCE FINALS

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (2) New Jersey
Pistons 0, Nets 2
Game 1: New Jersey 76, Detroit 74
Game 2: New Jersey 88, Detroit 86
Game 3 at New Jersey (May 23, 8:30 a.m.)
Game 4 at New Jersey (May 25, TBD)
*Game 5 at Detroit (May 27, 8 a.m.)
*Game 6 at New Jersey (May 29, 8 a.m.)
*Game 7 at Detroit (May 31, 8 a.m.)

Western Conference

(1) San Antonio vs (3) Dallas
Spurs 1, Mavericks 1
Game 1: Dallas 113, San Antonio 110
Game 2: San Antonio 119, Dallas 106
Game 3 at Dallas (May 24, 9:30 a.m.)
Game 4 at Dallas (May 26, 8:30 a.m.)
*Game 5 at San Antonio (May 28, 9:30 a.m.)
*Game 6 at Dallas (May 30, 9:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at San Antonio (June 1, 8:30 a.m.)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: The Golf Club 2003; 5:30 p.m. (r); Star Sports - Learn all the interesting facts and information from the greens and fairways across the globe.

PGA Bank of America Colonial; 5:30 p.m. (r) and tomorrow at 4:30 a.m.; Star Sports - See if Annika Sorenstam can make the cut against the men in this PGA event.

BASKETBALL: NBA Draft Lottery; 8 a.m. (r - 12 midnight); Solar Sports - Find out who wins the jackpot in the Lebron James Sweepstakes.

Pistons vs Nets, Game 3; 8:30 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.); Solar Sports - New Jersey gets its brooms ready as it hosts Detroit.

NBA Inside Stuff; 8:30 p.m.; Star Sports - Get your fix of NBA highlights and interviews in this half - hour show hosted by former football player Ahmad Rashad and Olympic swimmer Summer Sanders.

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 007

Tiger trivia

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True / ☐ False: Tiger Woods has won all the four major tournaments: the PGA Championship, the Masters, the U.S. Open, and the British Open.

2 > 5 Pts.
'Eldrick' is his real first name. How did he get the nickname 'Tiger'?
☐ His first baby sound sounded like 'grrr.'
☐ His dad's Vietnamese military buddy was nicknamed 'Tiger.'

3 > 7 Pts.
Tiger's first (and, so far, only) appearance in the Philippines was in 1998 when he played an exhibition match against a group of Asian golf stars at which course?
☐ Wack-Wack (Mandaluyong City)
☐ Southwoods (Carmona, Cavite)
☐ Mimosa (Angeles City, Pampanga)

4 > 10 Pts.
How old was Tiger when he won his first major--the Masters--at Augusta, Georgia, in1997?
☐ 19
☐ 21
☐ 23

5 > 15 Pts.
At the mere age of 2, Tiger appeared on the TV program The Mike Douglas Show and played golf with which comedian?
☐ Bob Hope
☐ Jerry Lewis
☐ Sammy Davis, Jr.
☐ Bing Crosby

6 > 25 Pts.
At what average speed is the head of Tiger's driver moving when he makes contact with the ball?
☐ 110 kph
☐ 155 kph
☐ 196 kph
☐ 232 kph

7 > 30 Pts.
Between 1984 and 1991, Tiger Woods won all five boys' age divisions of the World Junior Golf Championships in California. Yet despite this supreme dominance, he failed to break the 15-under-par tournament course record (273) in the 15-17 division set by a Filipino in 1986 at Torrey Pines South in La Jolla. Name this Filipino whose fantastic record still stands today.

ANSWERS/ A28

Spurs even Western ser with wild and wooly wir

A RARE shining moment for the Mavericks: Dirk Nowitzki towers over San Antonio's Tim Duncan. AFP

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan bagged 32 points Wednesday as the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Dallas Mavericks 119-106 in a tempestuous Game 2 of the Western Conference finals.

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WILLIAMS
43

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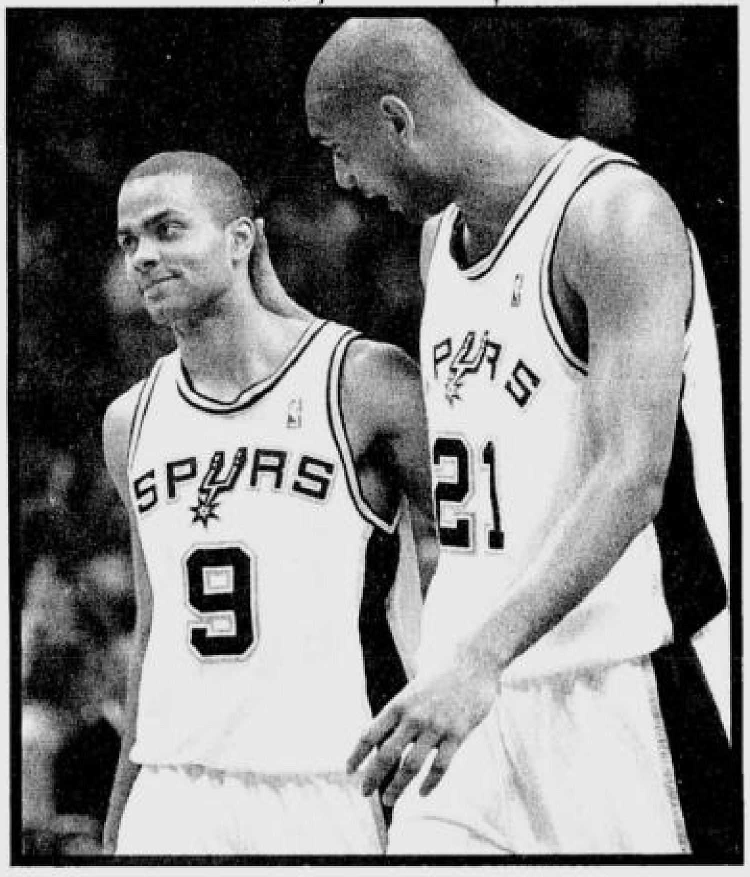

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Here's one for courage

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT marred an otherwise carnival of arsenals was a festival of technicals. The carnival was from the Dallas Mavericks and the festival from the NBA referees. San Antonio was mainly the beneficiary in yesterday's Game 2 of the Western Finals won by the Spurs with one blazing spurt at the finish, 119-106.

San Antonio's victory tied the best-of-seven series at 1-1. But not after the Spurs survived a scare.

The Mavericks unleashed yet a ton of shots from all directions coming home and, if not for the hostile referees' whistles hitting them for nearly two quarters earlier, they could have turned the tables once more on the Spurs, the way they did in Game 1 in scoring a 113-110 victory after being down by 18 points.

If only the referees had not interfered with a coach's business of coaching and a player's penchant for engaging in fierce play at all times, the shootout would not have turned ugly in the end for the Mavericks, who still looked simply marvelous when everything seemed lost.

If the first quarter was a nightmare for the Mavs, the fourth quarter was Elm St. for the Spurs.

The Mavs got four technical fouls early on, in the process sending head coach Don Nelson to the showers on two Ts. Mavs Dirk Nowitzki and Nick Van Exel got one technical apiece. Dallas fell apart after that and a slim San Antonio lead swelled to 24 points just minutes into the second quarter. At the half, the Spurs were up, 69-44.

Under such circumstances, any team would have given up the ghost for good.

Not Dallas, fast becoming as the NBA's Comeback Kid.

As if to avenge Nelson's ejection early in the game, Dallas spun a web of magic that defied all forms of basketball science and came slashing back into the thick of things.

It, sure, appeared like lightning would strike twice for the Mavs.

Down by 28 points late in the second quarter, the Mavericks closed the gap to just eight with five minutes left in the game behind an array of three-pointers and three-point plays by Dirk Nowitzki, Raef LaFrentz, Michael Finley, Steve Nash and Nick Van Exel. They kept nibbling away at the Spurs lead but, unfortunately, when they were just an ant's tongue away from tying the game, the Mavs were stopped dead on their tracks.

Tim Duncan, the MVP who is as tall as a Meralco post, hit a side jumper and then Tony Parker, showing maturity beyond his age of 20, dashed home for a fastbreak to restore order for the Spurs, 109-97, 3:51 left.

Even as Exel drained a trey, Parker smashed the Mavs for good with five straight points in an 8-0 Spurs blast for 117-100, a margin San Antonio protected with airtight defense in the last 1:19 of the contest.

The Kruger that was Nowitzki in Game 1 could not sustain his usual role of give-you-hell in the fourth quarter, although San Antonio had its fill of shrieks and skinners in that stretch. Nowitzki had to surrender scoring honors this time to Finley, who shot a team-high 29.

But if only to recognize the heap of garbage Dallas had to dispose in the form of a 28-point deficit, I will give the Mavericks a grade of 10 on a scale of 1-to-10 on the issue of courage, that time-honored virtue almost forgotten now in the jungle of sports' crass commercialism. For, by managing to storm back to within eight, the Mavs proved once again that a game can still be won no matter the odds. In sports as in life, one has always a chance to win, to survive if you will, if the heart is willing. In all our battles, it's not over until it's over as one sage has so succinctly said. One only needs to remember always that dive for the ball by Nash in yesterday's waning moments of the game, coming as it did when the Mavs had virtually lost it. Freeze that in your mind and, in time, it can be a buffer, a fortress, against the forces of indecision, if not cowardice.

An atmosphere as carnival as the NBA isn't a circus all the way. Technical or no technical.

***

FASTBREAK. From small to big. That's the story of the Unilever Barkada Golf Classic. Bernie Jambalos, the guy who started it all, waxed nostalgic on Wednesday during the tournament's awarding ceremonies. He recounted how the event started with just a dozen souls or so gracing the occasion, with just ``a box of balls and small trophies" as prizes to the winners. On Wednesday, Wack Wack's reception hall became like a huge appliance center, what with TVs, DVDs, stereo components, refs, etc. staked as raffle prizes alone. Almost a hundred were in attendance. Winners also received similarly attractive prizes like TVs and DVDs. Why, giveaway cell phones have suddenly become a dime a dozen. Nobody won the Toyota Altis, the hole-in-one prize. Still, each participant went home lugging a prize. Much of the credit goes to Chito Macapagal, who's got the backing of Unilever Big Boss Howard Belton to stage one of the year's biggest tournaments for duffers. Here's a glass to both Chito and Howard.

Childhood dream come true for Kidd

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan--Jason Kidd grew up on the playgrounds of Oakland, Calif., recreating all the moves of Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Michael Jordan.

Now, someone might be duplicating what Kidd did in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

His 20-foot fadeaway rainbow jumper from the right corner over 7-footer Mehmet Okur gave the Nets a 76-74 win over Detroit on Sunday.

"That's what it's all about," Kidd said with a grin. "And that's the kind of play I remember when I watched Larry, Magic and Michael."

Kidd made a game-winning stop in Game 2.

"He's been able to do some special things in both games," New Jersey coach Byron Scott said.

With the Nets clinging to an 88-86 lead Tuesday, Kidd stood tall under Chauncey Billups when he missed a 3-pointer as time expired.

"He was going to have to shoot it over me and he was going to have to make a tough shot," Kidd said. "If he made it, tip your hat to him. He didn't, and we got the win."

New Jersey returns home for Games 3 and 4 with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series after Kidd had 20 points, seven rebounds, five assists and two steals. *AP*

Celtics re-sign coach

BOSTON--The Boston Celtics, who were swept by New Jersey in the National Basketball Association playoffs, Wednesday gave coach Jim O'Brien a contract extension through the 2005-06 NBA season.

The extension is one of the first notable moves by Danny Ainge, who was hired earlier this month as executive director of basketball operations.

"We are excited to have Jim be our head coach," Ainge said. "Coming in new, this was not a process that was a given. There was a lot of conversation, observation and analyzing of circumstances. Of all the guys out there, he is the guy that we want." The Celtics are the NBA's most successful franchise with 16 titles, but last won the championship in 1986, when Ainge was the starting shooting guard on a team that featured Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Robert Parish and Dennis Johnson.

Last season, the Celtics advanced to the Eastern Conference finals before losing to New Jersey, ending a six-year playoff drought.

"I am excited and energized and very much looking forward to being joined with Danny in this quest to bring this franchise to the next level," O'Brien said.

O'Brien guided the Celtics to a 44-38 record despite limited production from center Vin Baker, who was acquired in a trade with Seattle. Baker averaged just 5.2 points in 52 games and was suspended indefinitely, reportedly for alcohol-related problems.

O'Brien is 117-65 since taking over from Rick Pitino in January 2001. The Celtics were 49-33 in 2001-02, their best record since the 1991-92 season.

"Under difficult circumstances, he's done a great job," Ainge said.

O'Brien was an assistant for the Celtics under Pitino before being promoted to interim coach. Boston was 12-22 when O'Brien took over and 24-24 over the remainder of that season.

He signed a multi-year contract as coach on April 24, 2001. He came to the Celtics in 1997 along with Pitino from the University of Kentucky. *AFP*

million shoe deal with Nike

contract with Upper Deck trading cards Wednesday.

His selection of Nike ends a nearly two-year battle between the shoe companies to land the dynamic player, whose game has been compared to that of Jordan and Magic Johnson.

James has received unprecedented media coverage the past two years. His games were sellouts in arenas around the country, and two of his games were televised nationally by ESPN.

The shoe deal came less than a day before James was to learn where he'll be wearing his Nikes as a pro. The NBA will hold its draft lottery Thursday night, and the winner gets the right to select James, a three-time Mr. Ohio in Basketball and the consensus national player of the year the past two years.

The Cleveland Cavaliers and Denver Nuggets, who finished tied for the league's worst record this season, have the best chance at getting the top pick.

Terms of the deal with Upper Deck were not immediately available, but company spokesman Jake Gonzales said James' contract is on a level with previous agreements signed by Jordan, Tiger Woods and soccer star David Beckham. *AP*

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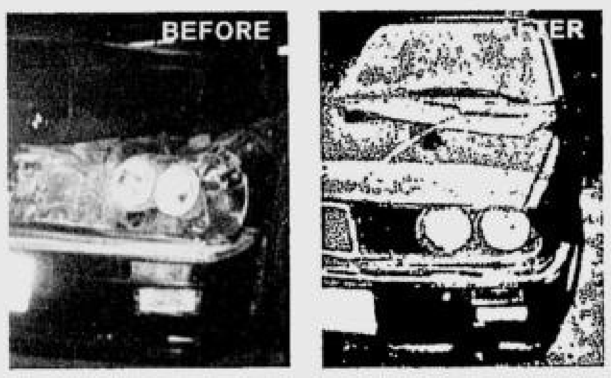

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FC Porto booters bag UEFA Cup for 1st time

SEVILLE, Spain—Brazilian striker Derlei scored twice in a man-of-the-match effort Wednesday as FC Porto downed Celtic 3-2 in extra time to win the UEFA Cup for the first time.

Derlei netted the first goal of the match in the 45th minute and scored the matchwinner in the 115th to help the Portuguese team to its first European trophy since 1987, and end the hopes of the Scottish team which played the last 25 minutes with 10 men.

BRAZILIAN forward Derlei scores past Celtic Scottish goalkeeper Robert Douglas during their soccer UEFA Final Cup in Seville. AFP

PORTO'S Nuno Valente flies over his team mates as they celebrate after scoring a goal during their UEFA Cup final soccer match against FC Celtic. REUTERS

Porto's technical superiority eventually told against a physically stronger Scottish team, which toiled manfully after the ejection of defender Bobo Balde. Celtic remains without a trophy in Europe since winning the Champions Cup in 1967.

Porto's victory was tainted by accusations by Celtic's Northern Irish coach Martin O'Neill that it had not played fairly.

The estimated 35,000 Celtic fans in the 60,000-seat Olympic Stadium booed and chanted "cheats" at Porto's players as the Portuguese tried to applaud the Scots during victory celebrations.

"I wasn't pleased at all by Porto," O'Neill said. "They have some very talented players but you saw the reaction they got tonight from our fans as they collected their medals. Celtic fans are as fair-minded as any in Europe and you saw their reaction tonight."

Porto coach Jose Mourinho denounced the accusations, saying that only a timid performance by Slovakia referee Lubos Michel had enabled Celtic to keep 11 men on the pitch until Balde's ejection.

The French defender received two yellow cards — and automatic ejection — for wild challenges on Deco in the 79th minute and 95th.

"I prefer to ask if the behavior of Celtic players is normal in your country," Mourinho said. "What Balde did to Deco could have finished the career of a player."

O'Neill said he was proud of his players despite their heartbreaking defeat, and said they could have won.

"The sending-off had an effect," he said. "We gave a fantastic performance in searing heat. We were immense tonight. We have been immense in victory in the past and we were immense in defeat tonight. Sometimes you get what you deserve but we deserved more tonight."

The match will also be remembered for a sparkling contribution by Deco, who tormented the Celtic defense and had a hand in all three of his team's goals.

The Brazilian-born midfielder, who now plays for the Portuguese national side, created the first goal with a pass to left back Nuno Valente, and the defender's shot was parried by goalkeeper Robert Douglas only for Derlei to race in and convert the chance.

The midfielder was again the provider in the 57th as he received a pass from Paulo Ferreira, and sent the ball into the path of scorer Dimitri Alenitchev.

Deco helped in the winning goal by laying on a pass for Marco Ferreira. After Douglas had parried the substitute's shot, Derlei moved inside one challenge and fired the ball home.

For the other double goalscorer on the field, Celtic's Swedish striker Henrik Larsson, the goals were to no avail.

The idol of the Celtic fans headed home the equalizer from Didier Agathe's cross just after halftime for the 200th goal of his Celtic career, and nodded the second equalizer from Alan Thompson's corner in the 57th. *AP*

ANNIKA'S ARMY. Annika Sorenstam hits to the first hole of the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas. She becomes the first woman to compete in a PGA Tour event in over 50 years when she tees it up today. AP

Tour players talking about future of women

FORT WORTH, Texas — The PGA Tour has never had a policy against women playing in its tournaments, and that isn't likely to change any time soon.

Still, with three women scheduled to play this year — starting with Annika Sorenstam on Thursday at the Colonial — players are starting to question the use of sponsor's exemptions.

"There's plenty of discussion on both sides of the fence," said Olin Browne, one of four players on the nine-member PGA Tour policy board. "It's evenly split."

What does that mean? Probably nothing.

Anyone who had a gripe about Sorenstam becoming the first woman in 58 years to compete on the PGA Tour can bring it up to the 16-player Players Advisory Council. If the issue festers, it is brought before the policy board.

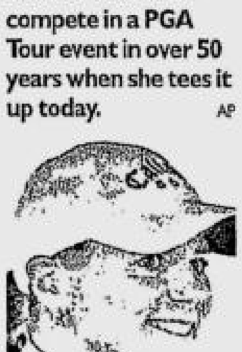
Henry Hughes, chief of operations for the PGA Tour, said sponsor's exemptions were on the agenda at the PAC meeting last week in Dallas, but that's as far as it went.

"The consensus of the PAC was that sponsor's exemptions as we have it now is fine," Hughes said. "It's beneficial for the players, it's beneficial for the members, and it's beneficial for the tournaments to enhance the field."

Along with Sorenstam, Suzy Whaley qualified for the Greater Hartford Open by winning a PGA sectional tournament for club pros. Last week, 13-year-old Michelle Wie of Hawaii accepted an exemption to play in the Boise Open on the Nationwide Tour.

Hughes conceded some players have raised gender issues, but said that wasn't enough for the tour to keep women out.

"If it has no interest or support, it won't go forward," he said. "My guess is it will not be on the agenda" at the next policy board meeting June 30 in Chicago. *AP*



Tradition-rich Colonial becomes Annika's Alley

FORT WORTH, Texas—Welcome to Annika's Alley.

Tradition-rich Colonial, where a bronze of five-time winner Ben Hogan greets everyone who passes through the front gates, turned into a massive cheering session Wednesday for Annika Sorenstam on the eve of her PGA Tour debut.

Despite a steady, sloppy rain that cut short a pro-am round, Sorenstam had to walk through a wall of spectators just to get to the first tee.

From there, the view was unlike anything she has ever seen. The 565-yard hole was a colorful outline of umbrellas from tee to green, and thousands of fans — about half of them women — called out her name as she walked by.

"This was tremendous," said Sorenstam, who was at least 1 over par through 10 holes when rain stopped the round. "All the support I've gotten from everybody, to show up on a day like today is incredible."

This is new territory for Sorenstam, and not just because she is the first woman in 58 years to compete against men on the PGA Tour.

When the Bank of America Colonial begins Thursday, it will be the first time Sorenstam has ever played a tournament she is not expecting to win.

The question is, what kind of score will it take to be satisfied?

"If I shoot level par, I'm going to be so pleased," she said.

Even so, Sorenstam knows that won't be easy. The course known as Hogan's Alley is longer and tougher than any she has played in competition.

She also will be under more scrutiny than any player since Tiger Woods made his pro debut in the 1996 Greater Milwaukee Open.

She figures the circus following her every move is probably worth two or three strokes a round, a handicap she accepts.

"I'm not complaining," Sorenstam said. "It's something I've got to learn and deal with. It's tough. That's one of the reasons I'm here."

Sorenstam tees off at 8:58 a.m. (1258 GMT) with Dean Wilson and Aaron Barber on the 10th tee. She will be the first woman since Babe Zaharias in 1945 to play on the tour, and everyone is eager to find out how she scores and how she copes with all the attention.

Jay Haas said Sorenstam's debut "might be bigger" than Woods' first pro event.

"Was Tiger's debut spread across the front page of the newspaper?" Haas said. "But it's certainly different. Everyone was talking about Tiger dominating the tour, and they don't think Annika is going to come out here and do that."

What will she do?

Sorenstam might have gotten a break with the rain. While it will make Colonial play closer to its 7,080 yards (6,442 meters), greens that normally are crusty and firm will be much more forgiving, allowing her to aim at the flag with long irons and her 7-wood.

She made her first birdie of the week on the 246-yard fourth hole, hitting her driver just short of the green and chipping in from 35 feet.

That put her 1 under for her pro-am round, although she gave it back with a bogey from the bunker on the next hole. Sorenstam picked up on two occasions, facing a 6-footer for bogey on No. 7 and a 4-footer for par on the par-3 eighth.

It doesn't matter. Thursday does. *AP*

Women vs. men nothing new at Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS—A woman makes her way into the field and faces scorn from some, cheers from others. About the only thing everyone agrees upon is she has virtually no chance to beat the guys.

It's the story of the week in golf.

It's just another day at the track in auto racing.

While Annika Sorenstam is making big news by playing against the men at the Colonial in Texas, Sarah Fisher is quietly going through her routine at Indianapolis.

On Sunday, the 22-year-old Indy Racing League star will make her fourth start in the Indianapolis 500. The only female driver in the 33-car field, Fisher's accomplishment is nothing new. Janet Guthrie broke the gender barrier at the Brickyard 26 years ago. Lyn St. James started the Indy 500 seven times in the 1990s.

"I don't think it's a landmark issue for us anymore," St. James said.

Unlike golf, women and racing have coexisted fairly peacefully for decades.

The commotion Sorenstam is creating this week was Guthrie's burden when she debuted at Indy in 1977. Much as Sorenstam is at the top of her game right now, back then, Guthrie was a well-established driver on the sports-car circuits.

Not that success made things any easier for either woman.

While Sorenstam is enduring the somewhat testy spotlight that comes with playing in a men's league, a quarter-century ago, Guthrie walked into a track that didn't even allow women in the garage until 1971. Like Sorenstam, Guthrie dealt with skeptics and critics. *AP*

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A26

1. True
2. His dad's Vietnamese military buddy was nicknamed 'Tiger.'
3. Mimosa (Angeles City, Pampanga)
4. 21 (the youngest ever to win there)
5. Bob Hope
6. 196 kph
7. Carito Villaroman

SPORTSWATCH

Tennis seed ousted

AN unseeded bet stole the show as Alyssa Callejo stunned fourth seed Macy Solon, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, yesterday to enter the girls' 14-under semifinals of the Alibor-St. Benilde Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Callejo, from Alamada, North Cotabato, will face second seed Jessica Agra, a 6-1, 6-3 winner over La Carlota City's Martina Jonica Guba in the next stage. In other matches, top seed Bambi Zoleta of Lucena City defeated Christel Ortellano, 6-1, 6-3, to advance against No. 3 Trudy Amoranto, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Macy Serrano.

Palawan netfest on

THE PUERTO Princesa Tennis Club hosts the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop starting today at the Palawan city hardcourts. The netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids with sanction from the Philippine Tennis Association features the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions. The Milo Junior Tennis Cup is being coordinated with club officers Tony Pediapco, Toying Formoso, Bobby Castro and Philta R-4 vice president Loy Espiritu.

Boost for young netters

THE INTERNATIONAL Tennis School-Philippines headed by Davis Cupper Virgilio "Beeyong" Sison, the last Filipino player to play the main draw of all the Grand Slams, will tie up with the prestigious Pat Cash-Gavon Hopper Tennis Academy in order to hasten the development of future Filipino tennis superstars. "This partnership will boost the development of young talents," Sison told the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn. Sison with Davis Cup mentor Martin Misa and former junior sensation Francis Factura are also the brains behind the growing popularity of the SBMA Int'l Tennis Center, host of the 2nd Coca Cola National Open.

Knights rip Bombers

DEFENDING champion Knights subdued arch rivals Bombay Bombers, 84-72, to gain a psychological edge going into the best-of-three series in the 2003 Filipino-Indian Basketball League (FIBL) championship which starts this Sunday at the Makati Coliseum. In the other game, the Titans clinched third spot by beating the winless Hoop It Up Kings 82-75. "We are very happy about how the league has progressed and we expect an exciting championship series between two balanced teams," said FIBL Commissioner Dilip Budhrani. The Knights and the Bombers clash at 4 p.m. this Sunday at the Makati Coliseum.

Bel-Air, SM Village win

BEL-AIR Village ruled the mini-midget category and San Miguel Village copped the Bulilit crown in the just concluded 2003 Makati Inter-Village Summer Basketball Tournaments held at the Bel-Air covered court in Makati. The tournament was jointly sponsored by SK Barangay Bel-Air and RFM-Selecta Moo, with the full support also of Barangay Bel Air chair Constancia Q. Lichauco, SK Bel Air chair Karen Mendoza and RFM VP for Corporate Relations Elmer Yanga.

Ladies volleyball set

THE 2003 PSA-Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament returns with a bigger offering at the Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park, Kawit, Cavite on June 3 and 4. The two-day volleyball fiesta is the second in a series of tournaments that aim to provide young ladies a fun, competitive chance to represent themselves and their sponsors. "We're making this Petron volleyball a regular meet so that we can give our women athletes a chance to showcase their wares," said Tisha Abundo, executive director of the organizing Volts Management Group.

Danding entry shines

SMB chief Danding Cojuangco's Bumble Bee Balbina and LCC Expressway of battle-tested Pol Estrellado and Louie Cua scored six points yesterday (Thursday) to dominate the NCA 7-Cock Derby before a huge crowd at the Araneta Coliseum. Thunderbird Firefly II of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta also shone by registering 5-1/2 points and shared the spotlight with Uma Binangonan and JU Firefly KGR which tallied five points apiece. Finishing with 4-1/2 points was King Cobra Farm of the venerable James Chiongbian to also reach the winner's circle of the derby hosted by Ito Ynares and Claude Bautista. The next NCA 7-Cock Derby will be held on May 26-28.

Pasay hosts derby

ANOTHER special 4-cock event unfolds at the Pasay Cockpit tonight. The derby will be sponsored anew by Sagupaan B-50 Forten, Sagupaan Mite Free Shampoo and Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000 while entry fee is P10,000, according to derby host Danny Aguilar who said that 30 participants are seeing action. Last Friday, Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa of Masbate and tabloid executive Rey Briones won the PCCA Cocker of the Year 2003 award as their Islander RB entry tallied the highest score in eight PCCA derbies. Interested parties may call 843-1890, 816-6750 and 843-1746.

Ramos Cup May 31

THE 5TH Ramos Peace and Development Foundation (RPDEV) Cup golf tournament will be held on May 31 at the Aoki Course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club. Former President Fidel V. Ramos will lead the shotgun-style tee-off. Major sponsors include San Miguel Corporation, International Container Terminal Services Inc., Jibsen Group, La Panday Foods and Samsung Philippines. Interested parties may call the RPDEV's office at 887-8964.

Scribe ma-in-law dies

CARMENCITA F. Cajucom, mother-in-law of sportswriter Nick Giongo, died on Monday at the age of 59. She is survived by husband Benedicto and children Carmina and Michael, Cathleen and Nick, Charmian and Cemazel, grandchildren Moreen, Matthew and Audrey, sister Carolina F. Tuason, brother Rene Flores, nephews and nieces. Her remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati. She will be cremated at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 7 a.m. Mass on Saturday.

PBL SEMIS

Viva shocks John O

GAMES TOMORROW *(San Juan Gym)*
2 p.m.—Viva Mineral Water vs Hapee
4 p.m.—Montaña Jewels vs John O

By Dennis U. Eroa

VIVA Mineral Water, fast emerging as the tournament's surprise package, recovered from a flat start to shock John O, 60-58, yesterday at the start of the Sunkist PBL Unity Cup semifinals at the Pasay City Sports Complex.

Trailing by 15 at 20-35 in the third period, the Water Force caught fire in the last quarter to take the lead for good at 59-53 with 49 seconds remaining.

In the second game, Gary David sizzled as Montaña completed a day of reversals by edging Hapee, 63-61. The 6-foot-3 David scattered 16 of his 24 points in the fourth period, including two charities which iced the game, 63-59, 6 seconds remaining.

The well-rested John O, which topped the eliminations with Montaña, threatened at 58-59 behind Ranidel Ocampo and Richard Melencio but Dennis Miranda put in a free throw and Viva escaped as Mark Macapagal missed a desperation try from midcourt.

Viva mentor Koy Banal said he challenged his boys at the half to show their fighting hearts. "I told them we're already in the semis and the next step is to make the finals."

Viva transformed itself into a tireless pressing squad in the final half and forced John O to grope for its shots.

Spearheaded by Sunny Margate, Miranda, Jeff Napa and Gerard Jones, Viva slowly turned things around against a team which opened the game on a sizzling note and led, 20-7, at the end of the first quarter.

VIVA 60—Miranda 14, Napa 11, Margate 9, Isip 6, Ybañez 6, Jones 4, Misolas 4, Sinco 4, Catli 2, Zablan 2, Co, 0, Razon 0.

JOHN O 58—De Ocampo 16, Cruz 11, Calimag 9, Madrid 7, Melencio 5, Macapagal 4, Oreta 2, Laygo 2, Ortega 2, McCoy 0, Vergara 0, Menor 0, Kiram 0.

Quarters: 7-20, 20-34, 40-44, 60-58.

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Race 6--1. Perfect Gift 2. West Swinger 3. Shan Sham 4. Gold Prosperity

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Palaro: GMA to decide when

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AFTER declaring that the Palarong Pambansa would be held in no other place but Tubod, Lanao del Norte, President Arroyo may just announce when the sportsfest will be held during her eight-day Malacanang in Mindanao stint early next month.

Officials said the President will be in Mindanao June 10-17 to, among others, personally oversee the implementation of her counterterrorism campaign and may decide, based on the prevailing peace and order situation in the region, the fate of the already twice-postponed Palaro.

Organizers are anticipating good news from Ms Arroyo, who three weeks ago declared that the postponed Games will have no other venue than Tubod, which boasts of topnotch sports facilities at the Mindanao Civic Center.

A prime consideration for the staging of the Games is the safety of the expected 5,000 students/athletes who will participate in the Palaro.

"We are hoping that she would once and for all declare that the province is safe and that the Palaro would be held here," said one of the local organizers. "It would also be better if she herself declares the Palaro open during the opening rites."

Originally set May 4-11, the sportsfest was reset due to MILF attacks in the Lanao del Norte towns of Maigo and Baloi last April 26. The Philippine Sports Commission, after consulting with the military, the Department of Education and Lanao del Norte officials, then announced the indefinite suspension of the games due to unstable peace conditions and concerns of parents for the safety of the student athletes.

Despite the postponements, Lanao del Norte officials, led by Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo, said the province is ready to stage the Games any time.

RP boxers eye final berths

By Roy Luarca

SEVILLE, Spain--Asian Games silver medallist Harry Tanamor and two other RP Revicon fighters seek final berths Thursday in the BoxAm tournament here.

The 24-year-old Tanamor, owner of two international titles in Azerbaijan and Greece last year, will be joined by Warlito Parrenas and Jenebert Basadre in the semifinals of the 11-nation, 12-team tournament.

Tanamor tackles Latvia's S. Vladislav in the 48 kg (flyweight) division while Parrenas battles Mexico's Raul Hilares in the 51 kg (flyweight) class.

The 20-year-old Basadre tangles with France's B. Danguoko in the 57 kg (featherweight) category.

The three were left to carry the fight for the six-man RP Revicon team following the losses suffered by Esmael Bacongon and Florencio Ferrer Wednesday.

Bacongon was beaten anew by Bulgaria's Davis Georgiev, 23-13, while Ferrer yielded to local bet Jose Gutierrez, 27-14, in the 64 kg (welter) division.

Georgiev also defeated Bacongon in the A. Socikas tournament in Lithuanian, from where the Filipino boxers came from last week.

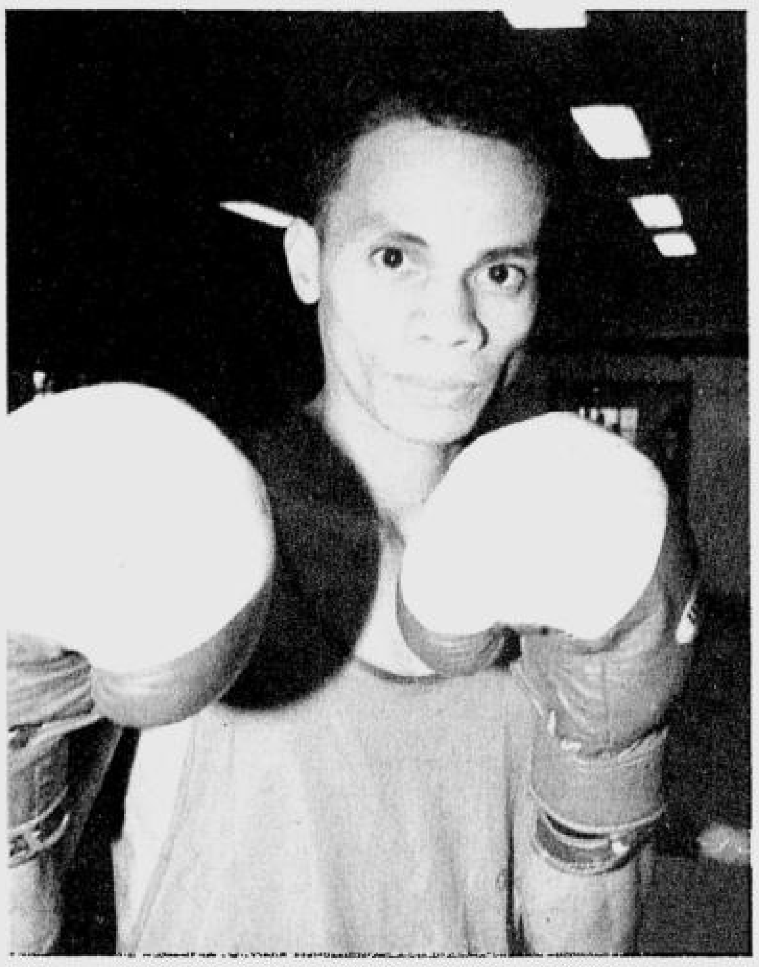
"The boys gave their best, but fell short owing to their inexperience," said head coach Pat Gaspi, who is being assisted here by Alex Arroyo.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez said the three remaining fighters have good chances to advance to the final, especially Tanamor.

"He (Tanamor) just needs to be careful," Lopez said.

The tournament sanctioned by the Amateur International Boxing Association takes a break Friday. The finals will be held Saturday.

With the RP Revicon squad being supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Accxel is international referee-judge Mar de Guia.



TAÑAMOR: Going for gold. JESS YUSON

Low-key drug rehab for Crisano

By June Navarro

WHILE Jimwell Torion's drug rehabilitation program is being monitored by the media every inch of the way, Alex Crisano of Barangay Ginebra goes through his own rehab routine without fanfare and publicity.

Barangay Ginebra team manager Ira Maniquis said Crisano, who also tested positive for shabu and suspended by the league indefinitely just like the Batang Red Bull playmaker, would rather keep mum with respect to the rehab program the management has arranged for the 6-foot-8 slotman.

"The least that Alex (Crisano) wants right now are distractions. That's why we want to do it as silently as possible to clear his mind and focus on the program itself," said Maniquis.

The Gin Kings management has introduced a three-phase drug rehab program where urine sample testing, psychiatric sessions and drug counseling are involved.

"We will submit the findings of the program to the PBA Commissioner's Office on a monthly basis. The monthly reports will keep commissioner (Noli) Eala aware of the development as far as Crisano's case is concerned," said Maniquis.

Maniquis said Crisano's program is, in fact, more stringent than Torion's if only to prove the determination of the cager to clear his name with the full backing of the Ginebra management.

"Although he continues to question the result of the random drug test, Alex has submitted himself to the requirements set by the league for his reinstatement," Maniquis told the Inquirer.

Sources said the vitamin supplement that Crisano had taken to enhance his performance could be the culprit as doctors suspect the pill contains substances similar to shabu.

Maniquis said Crisano had undergone two of the three urine sample tests required by the program within the month while psychiatric sessions and drug counseling are simultaneously going on.

So far, both tests yielded negative results, Maniquis said.

Tigers seek key win vs Realtors

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
5 p.m.--San Miguel vs FedEx
7:30 p.m.--Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola

DEFENDING champion Coca-Cola shoots for the fifth qualifying slot in the Asian Invitationals when it tackles Sta. Lucia today in the Samsung PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

With a 9-7 win-loss card, the Tigers only to have beat the Realtors (8-9) in their 7:30 p.m. clash to join Red Bull, FedEx, San Miguel and Talk N Text in the Asian Invitationals which will be held after the All-Filipino Cup.

FedEx and San Miguel, co-leaders in Group A with 10-6 slates, clash in a no-bearing game earlier at 5 o'clock.

Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to health.

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4th PRIZES 64
5th PRIZES 128
6th PRIZES 128
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1. You must be 18 years old and above and a Philippine resident to join
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3. All entries must have a portion of the pack seal.
4. Only Genuine and Original packs of participating brands made by Fortune Tobacco Corporation will be honored.
5. Drop your entries in Drop Boxes at designated drop centers.
6. You can only win 1 prize per Grand Draw. If your name is drawn more than once in a given draw, you win the bigger prize and forfeit the prize with a lesser price value
7. The Stores/Outlets have a chance to win Cash Prizes in the Major Prize Category (1st to 3rd prizes only). In the event that a Store/Outlet owner wins a Major Prize during the draw, he or she will also win the corresponding cash prize for the Store/Outlet.
8. If a winning entry does not bear the Name and Address of the Store/Outlet, the entry will still be valid but no Store/Outlet Winner will be declared for the corresponding cash prize.
9. The following are the four (4) Grand Draw dates:
   1st Draw: June 28, 2003
   2nd Draw: October 4, 2003
   3rd Draw: January 17, 2004
   4th Draw: April 24, 2004
   (NOTE: Subject to change and will be announced in advance.)
10. Deadline for submission of entries per Grand Draw
    a. Provincial Entries - ten (10) days before the Grand Draw
    b. Metro Manila Entries - 1 week before the Grand Draw
11. Only official representatives from Fortune Tobacco Corporation and DOH-BFAD will validate all winning raffle entries during the Pre-Draw and Grand Draw.
12. Major Prize Winners (for the 1st to the 3rd Prizes) will be drawn during a LIVE TELECAST of the Grand Draw in NBN Channel 4. Minor Prize winners (for the 4th to the 10th Prizes) will be pre-drawn prior to each Grand Draw Show.
13. The Raffle Prize and Store/Outlet winners of the 1st to the 9th Prizes will be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer nine (9) days after the Grand Draw Show. As for the 10th Prizes Winners, a separate list of their names will be posted in the district/branch offices of Fortune Tobacco Corp. nationwide.
14. All prizes are TAX PAID. No fees are required to claim prizes.
15. Winners of the 1st to the 9th Prizes will be notified by telegram as to when and where they may claim their prizes. It must be personally claimed. The prizes of the 10th Prize Winners will be delivered at their respective home addresses.
16. When claiming the prizes, the winner must present the telegram and two (2) ID's bearing their photos and signatures. In case the claimant is unable to comply with these requirements, he or she must execute an affidavit to verify and establish his or her identity.
17. As for the Store/Outlet Winners, they must also present the telegram, two (2) ID's bearing their photos and signatures, and a copy of their business permit.
18. Prizes not claimed after sixty (60) days from the publication of the Winners Ad will be forfeited.
19. Non-winning entries per Grand Draw will not qualify for the next Grand Draw.
20. Employees of Fortune Tobacco Corporation, its Advertising Agencies and DOH-BFAD as well as their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are not qualified to join this promotion.

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BIR probes tax payments of dep't stores

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is looking into the tax compliance of 10 department stores after initial data gathered by the bureau showed that the percentage amount of their income tax and value-added tax payments against their gross sales in 2002 were suspiciously low.

According to Deputy Commissioner Estelita Aguirre, head of the BIR's large taxpayers division, the BIR would look into the accuracy of the department stores' tax declarations, saying there was a strong possibility they could have underpaid their actual tax liabilities.

BIR records showed that five of the department stores paid income taxes amounting to less than 0.40 percent of their gross sales, while all of them paid net VAT amounting to less than 2 percent. The BIR requested that the identities of the department stores be withheld.

"One department store paid only 0.30-percent net VAT (output VAT credit less input credit), and that is too low," Aguirre said in an interview.

Aguirre said that business establishments under the large taxpayers division should at least pay an income tax amounting to 2 percent of gross sales and a net VAT amounting to 3 percent, to safely say that they were not underpaying their tax obligations. However, she clarified that the figures were just working benchmarks for the BIR, and that there were no strict rules guiding them.

Aguirre said the BIR could not say the department stores were indeed guilty of tax evasion, but said the probability was high.

"Well, it's also possible that they merely extended their allotments for capital expenditures that is why they had a huge amount of input VAT credits, but a business establishment having a net input VAT of 0.30 percent is really very low and it calls for the BIR to further check on their tax compliance," she said.

Aguirre said the BIR has developed a computer system that could provide it with essential data on the tax compliance of business establishments. One significant task the bureau's computerized auditing system could do was to come up with a ratio analysis comparing a business establishment's amount of sales and the percentage amount of taxes it remitted, she added.

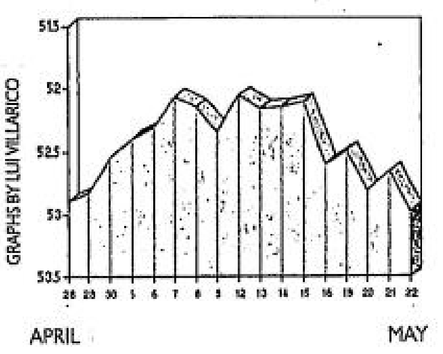
"With the improved technology utilization in the bureau, it can now easily detect discrepancies, such as between a taxpayer's income tax declaration and its actual sales," Aguirre said.

According to the BIR, its computerized auditing system was also the reason it was able to detect the alleged under-declaration of sales of seven firms it prosecuted for tax evasion. The combined amount of unpaid tax liabilities of the seven firms stood at P9.65 billion. The cases of tax violations were filed by the BIR last Wednesday at the Department of Justice.

Aguirre said that should the BIR gather enough evidence on the case of the department stores, they would also be prosecuted.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY LUI VILLARICO

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.97 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 22, 2003

¥117.62 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 22, 2003

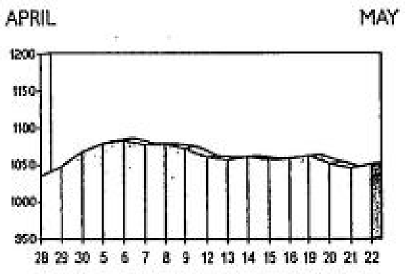
GOLD: $370.00-370.50

per ounce Hong Kong, May 22, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Shares end up

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES ended higher yesterday fueled by telecom stocks PLDT and Globe Telecom, as the market embraced hopes for further growth in the local telecommunications sector.

The Philippine key index ended up 5.28 points or 0.5 percent at 1,051.44, after closing in the red for two consecutive sessions. The market has risen 3.24 percent so far this year.

"The market's bearishness has diminished but it is still not bullish. There are just selective accumulation, primarily on telecom issues," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"If you look at the first-quarter results, the telecom issues stood out."

The market's value turnover rose to P358.59 million from Wednesday's P254.25 million. Gainers beat losers 28 to 23. There were 35 stocks unchanged.

Globe, which reported a 4-percent profit growth in the first quarter, rose 3.7 percent or P20 to close at P560. It accounted for nearly 21 percent of the total trade.

PLDT, the Philippines' largest telecommunications firm which reported a 58 percent first-quarter profit growth, added P5 to end at P422.50. It was the second most actively traded stock.

Analysts said the market will continue to drift in a narrow range as players await for the official release of the country's first-quarter economic growth on May 29.

"There are positive news coming out that first quarter GDP growth may be better than expected, but this is being tempered by peace and order concerns," Vistan said.

Reuters

US firm investing ₱400M in Mindanao

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOIDA Nicolas Lewis

A SUBSIDIARY of a Filipino-owned company based in the United States will put up a new meat plant and cold storage facility in Mindanao.

TLC Beatrice Foods Philippines Inc. is investing P400 million to put up a world-class meat-processing facility this year even before its P40-million abattoir project in Naga could begin operations.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo said yesterday that the firm, owned by Filipino-American businesswoman Loida Nicolas Lewis, had chosen a four-hectare lot inside the Phividec Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental, for its meat-processing project.

"Loida's group is definitely coming into our country in a big way," the DA chief

US FIRM/ B3

'No strike, no lockout' provision in CBAs backed

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMEN are backing a bill amending the Labor Code that would allow the adoption of a "no strike, no lockout" provision in the collective bargaining agreement between management and union.

Members of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines yesterday cheered Rep. Imee R. Marcos for filing House Bill No. 2929, which would address the businessmen's clamor for a solution to the growing restiveness among the country's labor groups that has further dampened investors' appetite in the country.

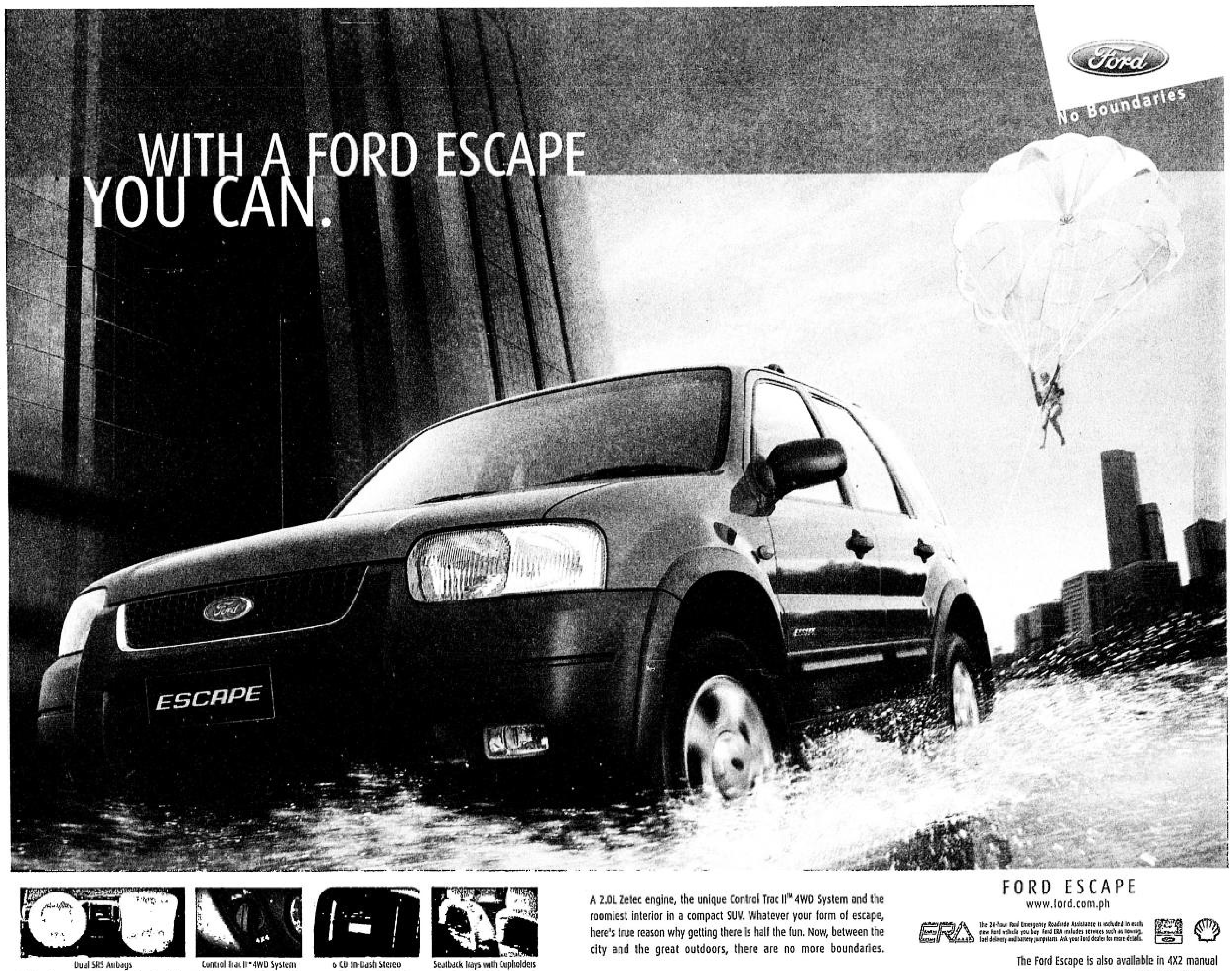
In her speech during Ecop's 24th National Conference of Employers, Marcos stressed that the "no strike, no lockout" provision would only apply to issues of compensation (when laborers would ask for wages and benefits beyond those provided by law) and it would be in effect for a limited period or no longer than the CBA's life.

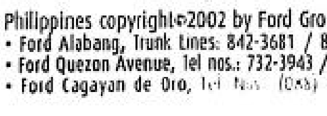
Marcos also noted that the "no strike clause" should only be allowed in times of national unemployment emergency when the rate of joblessness has been publicly recognized as having reached a critical level detrimental to the national interest.

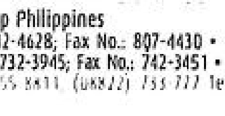
In her explanatory note to HB 5959, Marcos said reforms should be undertaken in the country's labor laws to encourage businessmen to expand their operations and help solve the growing ranks of unemployed, estimated at 3.8 million in 2002.

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI) was the first to call for a 10-year strike moratorium which would spur its members to create at least 3 million jobs within the next 2 to 3 years. The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines and the Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce have come out to support a strike ban.

The departments of trade and industry and of labor and employment said that while they were open to the proposed strike moratorium, it would be difficult to enforce such a ban under the current rules.




Dual SRS Airbags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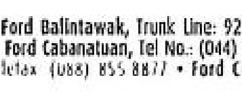
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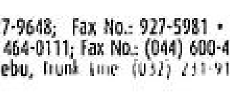
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

'Hot money' inflows hit $62.7M

By Doris C. Dumlao

"HOT money" is flowing back to the Philippines at the strongest pace seen in 15 months as rising domestic interest rates perk up foreign investors' interest in peso-denominated assets.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas statistics showed that the net portfolio investment inflow in the first three weeks of May reached $62.7 million, much better than the measly $8.7 million registered during the whole of May last year. The three-week hot money inflow likewise edged out the $49.4 million registered for the whole of April this year.

BSP officials said there was an improving trend in the portfolio investment inflows this year, although foreign direct investments remained minimal. Portfolio investments went largely to debt papers during the period as the local stock market remained in a slump.

"We've seen inflows in government securities, money market and peso deposits," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He noted that the increasing appetite for peso-denominated assets were brought about by the uptick in yields arising from higher domestic interest rates.

The inflow of hot money in May, based on BSP data, was the strongest since February last year, when the net portfolio inflow hit $64.6 million.

The BSP, for its part, hopes that the uptrend will continue for the rest of the year.

BSP managing director Diwa Guinigundo said the Philippines would likely continue seeing investments from non-residents in local debt securities this year.

The first two months of the year saw a 22.4-percent decline in portfolio investment inflow due mainly to higher investments by resident banks in foreign-issued debt securities for portfolio diversification. This wiped out the increase in non-residents' investments in resident-issued foreign-denominated debt securities, such as the national government's debt issues.

The government issued $822 million worth of foreign currency-denominated bonds consisting of $500 million in global bonds issued in January and $322 million in euro bonds issued in February.

BIR to set up tax mapping 'war room'

By Michelle Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue will set up a "war room" in its national office in Quezon City to monitor the progress of its tax mapping operations in various revenue districts nationwide.

The war room will be equipped with monitoring equipment that will make possible the consolidation and regular updating of data on the results of each tax mapping operation—including the number of erring business establishments, their corresponding violations and the amount of fines collected from them by the BIR.

According to a BIR official, the setting up of the monitoring facility is expected to keep the bureau updated on the results of each tax mapping operation. This, he said, would be of big help in enabling the BIR achieve its goal of covering 300,000 business establishments nationwide before the end of the fiscal year.

The BIR started its tax mapping operations on April 2. During the operation, BIR personnel are fielded to check on the compliance of business establishments with the country's tax rules and plug tax leaks.

SMEs suffered poor sales in last 2 years, poll shows

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEARLY half of the country's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) suffered a decline in sales in the last two years due to an inhospitable business environment, according to a survey by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop).

Ecop SME committee chair Francisco R. Floro said the survey covering 1,000 SMEs across the country showed that 49 percent of the respondents experienced a decrease in sales from 2001 to 2002 while the 39 percent reported sales increase and 21 percent posted steady turnover.

Despite the poor sales, Floro said only 28 percent cut their workforce while 47 percent retained their workforce. Only 24 percent hired additional employees during the period.

Floro said the survey showed six major concerns faced by SMEs in their operations. He said SMEs felt that the environment was not good for business; there was too much and unfair competition; the cost of running a business was too high; very little support for SMEs from the government; access to credit was difficult, and access to business support services was limited.

But the survey showed that SMEs remained generally optimistic over their business prospects with 91 percent expecting to continue their businesses in the medium- to long-term. More than 70 percent of the respondents are expecting their businesses to survive or get better with an improvement in the overall business environment and increased support.

On credit access, the survey showed that only 36 percent of the SMEs have tried to apply for bank loans in the past two years. The respondents were reluctant to borrow because of inability to meet collateral requirements, high interest rates and the perceived tedious process in obtaining a loan.

Floro said the SMEs were clamoring for the effective implementation of the Barangay Micro Business Enterprise Law and the SME Unified Lending Program for National Growth or Sulong.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Philcomsat diversifying

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp., a unit of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp., plans to venture into real estate development and call center operations. It has started negotiations with prospective partners.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, PHC said it was negotiating for a separate joint venture with a local real estate firm involved in a medium-cost housing project in Pasig and a Singaporean company that has taken a role in the development of a housing and industrial zone project in the Calabarzon area.

PHC said it was also considering going into the call center business.

The company has engaged the services of CommVerge Solutions Philippines Inc. to undertake the feasibility study for the call center.

SEC slaps fine on 2 banks

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday fined Equitable PCI Bank and Banco de Oro Universal Bank, both publicly listed companies, for violations of the SEC reportorial or disclosure requirements.

The commission en banc yesterday approved a P738,628 fine on Equitable PCI for the late filing of its first quarter report. The fine was one-tenth of one percent of the bank's 2002 net income.

It also slapped Banco de Oro of retail magnate Henry Sy a fine of P85,000 for not explaining in a report the impact of the bank's acquisition of First E-Bank's assets and liabilities.

Banco de Oro cited confidentiality agreement with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the non-disclosure.

However, SEC corporation finance department director Justina Callangan told reporters that the confidentiality agreement was no excuse given that the bank could have submitted the required date as confidential information.

SEC OKs Cashrounds IPO

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of venture capital broker Cashrounds Inc. to register 28 million common shares and to undertake an initial public offering via its listing on the small and medium enterprise board of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Out of the 28 million shares, 8 million will be offered via IPO at P1 per share.

Cashrounds said that out of estimated net proceeds of P6.38 million, P3.657 million would be used for permanent working capital, P1.7 million for marketing and promotion and P1 million for software and hardware upgrade.

Cashrounds operates an online private placement matchmaking service.

Using its electronic infrastructure, Cashrounds collects, aggregates, qualifies and present investment proposals to professional venture capitalists and various investors in the Asia-Pacific region for possible private equity transactions. *Elena R. Torrijos*

RP faces BOP deficit

THE PHILIPPINES is facing a balance of payment (BOP) deficit this year—a reversal of the $660 million surplus reaped in 2002—due to slower inflows from trade, investments and foreign borrowings, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

"The BOP may post a deficit this year unless the government changes its borrowing tack," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

As the national government is now relying more on domestic borrowings to cover its budget deficit this year, there are no new inflows of foreign exchange from loans that can beef up the BSP's gross international reserves (GIR).

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

From January to April this year, the country's BOP has incurred a deficit of $519 million, a turnaround from the $1.89 billion surplus in the same period last year.

For the full year, BSP managing director Diwa Guinigundo said the current account, a main BOP component, would likely post a surplus of $2.4 billion or smaller than the level posted in 2002 as import spending was expected to outpace export earnings.

In a presentation yesterday, he said export receipts for the full year were likely to grow by 5 percent to $36.1 billion and imports, by 7 percent to $36.4 billion.

Aside from the trade in goods and services, the current account also includes income and current transfers.

For the first two months of the year, the country's current account stood at $409 million, 73.7 percent lower than a year ago, due to the weakening of the trade-in-goods account coupled with increases in net service outflows. Exports grew by only 3.2 percent to $5.29 billion during the period while imports surged by 31.7 percent to $5.56 billion. *Doris C. Dumlao*

STI unit starts new venture

By Elena R. Torrijos

GLOBAL Resources for Outsourced Workers (GROW), an affiliate of IT school chain STI Education Services Group, has invested $20 million to put up offices for placement of nurses in California, Houston, Washington D.C. and London.

"We will use the offices to petition our graduates to go to those places," STI president and chief executive Eusebio Tanco said in a briefing Wednesday.

STI, which has over 100 IT schools and learning centers, recently expanded into nursing via tie-ups with De los Santos University and University of Makati.

GROW chair Monico Jacob noted that the demand for nurses in the United States was tremendous, with the supply and demand gap estimated to range from 120,000 this year to 700,000 in the next 10 years.

Jacob said the company should be able to send 200 to 300 Filipino nurses to the four identified destinations this year and probably 1,000 nurses next year.

The company expects to be paid by hospitals that will tap GROW for the supply of adequately trained and qualified nurses.

GROW had already signed up three hospitals in Houston and is currently in discussions with a chain of hospitals each in California and Washington D.C.

Convergys to open call centers in RP

NEW YORK—Convergys Corp., a billing software and customer-care services provider, said on Wednesday it would open two call centers in the Philippines in about two months in a move to cut back costs in the weaker telecom environment.

Convergys, which along with its competitors has suffered from the prolonged slump in spending among telecommunications companies, has recently built call centers in markets where labor is considered cheaper than in the United States.

The two new call centers, which will be in Manila and handle phone calls from clients' customers, will employ between 1,000 and 2,000 workers when they reach full capacity in 12 to 14 months, the Cincinnati-based company said.

The company, which in December announced plans to cut 950 jobs, said in April that it hoped to double its headcount in India to 6,500 where it plans to open additional call centers.

Convergys employs 46,000 people altogether.

Jack Freker, president of the company's call center business, said that Convergys was planning to build four more call centers in India, in addition to its two existing centers.

"Demand from our clients is outstripping our ability to supply them," Freker said. "If we build at the same rate over the next year we will still be behind." Freker would not say how much the company was spending in the Philippines but noted that call centers typically cost about $6 million to $8 million to build.

Convergys said its Manila call centers would be close to offices of other US companies, such as Microsoft Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co. *Reuters*

INTEREST RATES

May 22, 2003-MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 22-May-03 (%)	MART1 21-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.3039	7.275
3 Months	7.2596	7.2438
6 Months	8.3104	8.2818
1 Year	8.6096	8.6039
2 Years	9.3423	9.2769
3 Years	10.2981	10.2654
4 Years	10.9135	10.9038
5 Years	11.3462	11.3096
7 Years	11.7289	11.6885
10 Years	11.9019	11.8904
20 Years	12.7596	12.7596
25 Years	13.2635	13.2519

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, May 22, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANK					
BanCo de Oro Univ. Bank	15	15	15	15	31,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	34	34	34	34	963,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24	24	24	24	12,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	25.5	25.5	179,800
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	33,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	2,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	68,000
Security Bank Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	4,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	70,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1410	1410	1410	60
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1055	1050	1050	480
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12	12	12	12	1,300
Digital TeleCom Phils Inc.	0.75	0.78	0.75	0.77	7,070,000
Globe TeleCom Inc.	545	560	545	560	134,950
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	30,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.02	21,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,440,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	780,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	417.5	425	417.5	422.5	164,650
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	17,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	143,000
Manila Electric Co. B	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.6	268,000
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.06	2.08	6,011,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	50,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	43,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.46	570,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.46	11,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.5	343,200
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	29,900
San Miguel Corp. B	65.5	66	65	65	211,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4	4	4	4	250,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.05	4.1	4.05	4.05	3,580,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	335,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	11,600,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.8	150,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	12,510,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	870,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	72,000
Ionics Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	40,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	22,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.45	0.48	0.45	0.48	100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.009	0.01	7,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	220,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	4,720,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	120,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.58	0.7	0.55	0.67	190,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.74	1.8	278,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	112,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	420,000
Manila Jockey Club	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	4,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.43	0.46	0.41	0.41	1,330,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	1,784,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.9	5,526,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	52,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	1,800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	110,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.79	0.82	26,750,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	49,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.14	230,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.75	4.75	6,736,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	120,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	500,000
OmiCo Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	27,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	30,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	4,900,000
Interport Res.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	190,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	500,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,379,940	40,476,950.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	133,099,900	235,939,200.00
PRO	41,253,000	81,499,550.00
Mining	34,550,000	379,250.00
OIL	33,590,000	187,700.00
GRAND TOTALS:	243,872,840	358,482,650.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	344.40	UP 2.30
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,564.50	UP 10.47
PRO	432.04	DOWN 4.01
Mining	1,220.01	UP 33.74
OIL	1.17	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	680.11	DOWN 9.09
Composite	1,051.44	UP 5.28

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 86; NO. OF TRADES: 1,497

DISCLOSURES

FORTUNE Cement Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 18, 9 a.m. at the Mondragon House, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank declared a cash dividend of P0.25 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of June 4. It will be payable on July 1.

* * *

BELLE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 25, 3 p.m. at the Clermonth Room, 22/F of Discovery Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of May 26 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Telegraph & Telephone Corp. denied having any information that can explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.20 to P0.30 per share.

* * *

BENPRES Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 11, 8 a.m. at the Meralco Theater, Pasig City. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 22, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.856311	1.000000	52.696000
Japan	Yen	0.007304	0.008530	0.449500
United Kingdom	Pound	1.402894	1.638300	86.331900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109800	0.128225	6.756900
Switzerland	Franc	0.660428	0.771248	40.641700
Canada	Dollar	0.634069	0.740466	39.019600
Singapore	Dollar	0.496758	0.580114	30.569700
Australia	Dollar	0.561295	0.655480	34.541200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.271563	2.652731	139.788300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.228344	0.266660	14.051900
Brunei	Dollar	0.495321	0.578436	30.481300
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000120	0.006300
Thailand	Baht	0.020418	0.023844	1.256500
UAE	Dirham	0.233156	0.272279	14.348000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.167800	61.538400
Argentina	Peso	0.300988	0.351494	18.522300
Brazil	Real	0.284962	0.332779	17.536100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134676	0.157275	8.287800
India	Rupee	0.018298	0.021368	1.126000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225375	0.263193	13.869200
Mexico	New Peso	0.083812	0.097876	5.157700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499132	0.582886	30.715800
Norway	Kroner	0.127157	0.148494	7.825000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014854	0.017346	0.914100
South Africa	Rand	0.110813	0.129408	6.819300
Korea	Won	0.000717	0.000837	0.044100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109134	0.127447	6.715900
Syria	Pound	0.020389	0.023810	1.254700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024792	0.028952	1.525700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000537	0.000627	0.033000

PNB compromise

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

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US firm . . .

From page B1

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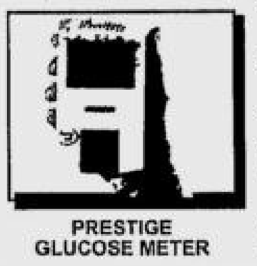
(SIMPLY AND ACCURATELY)



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PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
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First in the Philippines

Philips bags global standard TS16949:2002 Certification

Philips Semiconductors Philippines, Inc. (PSPI) Cabuyao recently became the country's first recipient of the TS16949:2002 Certification, the international automotive standard established by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) representing European, American and Japanese automotive manufacturers.

PSPI Cabuyao also holds the distinction of being the first Philips Semiconductors Assembly center to be granted this certification. A major assembly and test center for more than 5,000 different discrete products,PSPI is a recognized competence center for Power products, Broadband Communication and Base Station, RF Personal Communication and Consumer products and General Application products.

According to Emma Tomelden, Director for Quality and Reliability of PSPI Cabuyao, "We are all proud of this achievement and we owe it all to everyone in the organization. Receiving this certification is such a great honor considering that the automotive industry has one of the highest standards for quality".

TS16949:2002 is a global standard which defines the quality management system requirements for the design and development, production, installation and service of automotive related products. In comparison with TS16949, QS9000 defines the quality management system requirements of the Big 3 American automotive manufacturers (Ford, Chrysler and General Motors) only. SGS, a Swiss-based auditing company concluded that PSPI has a "very high level of compliance with the TS16949 requirements".

PSPI Cabuyao also received the Philippines' first ISO9002 certification in 1991. It also achieved zero audit findings in the company's QS9000 certification audit in 1998.

The TS16949:2002 certification is another milestone in Philips' drive for excellence, a fitting reward for a company that has always been committed to make things better.

About Royal Philips Electronics
Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest, with sales of EUR 31.8 billion in 2002. It is a global leader in color television sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, and one-chip TV products. Its 170,000 employees in more than 60 countries are active in the areas of consumer electronics, lighting, domestic appliances, components, semiconductors, and medical systems. Philips is quoted on the NYSE (symbol: PHG), London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and other stock exchanges. News from Philips is located at www.philips.com/newscenter.

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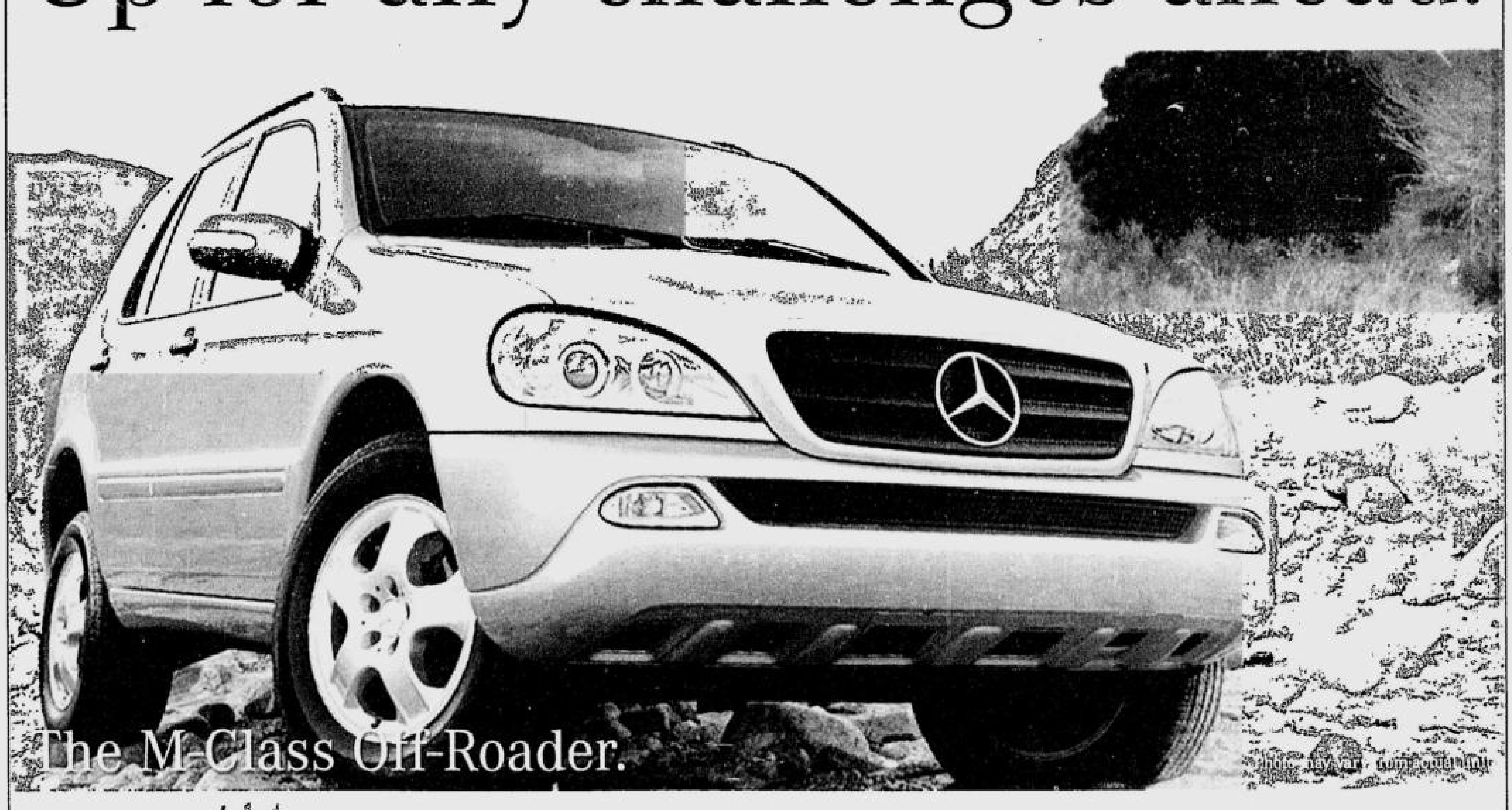

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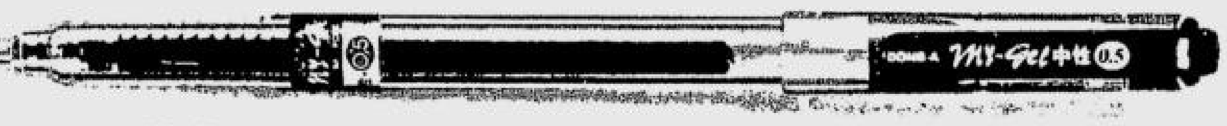

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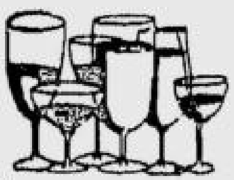
PNB compromise

COCKTALES



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Philips Semiconductors Philippines, Inc. (PSPI) Cabuyao recently became the country's first recipient of the TS16949:2002 Certification, the international automotive standard established by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) representing European, American and Japanese automotive manufacturers.

PSPI Cabuyao also holds the distinction of being the first Philips Semiconductors Assembly center to be granted this certification. A major assembly and test center for more than 5,000 different discrete products,PSPI is a recognized competence center for Power products, Broadband Communication and Base Station, RF Personal Communication and Consumer products and General Application products.

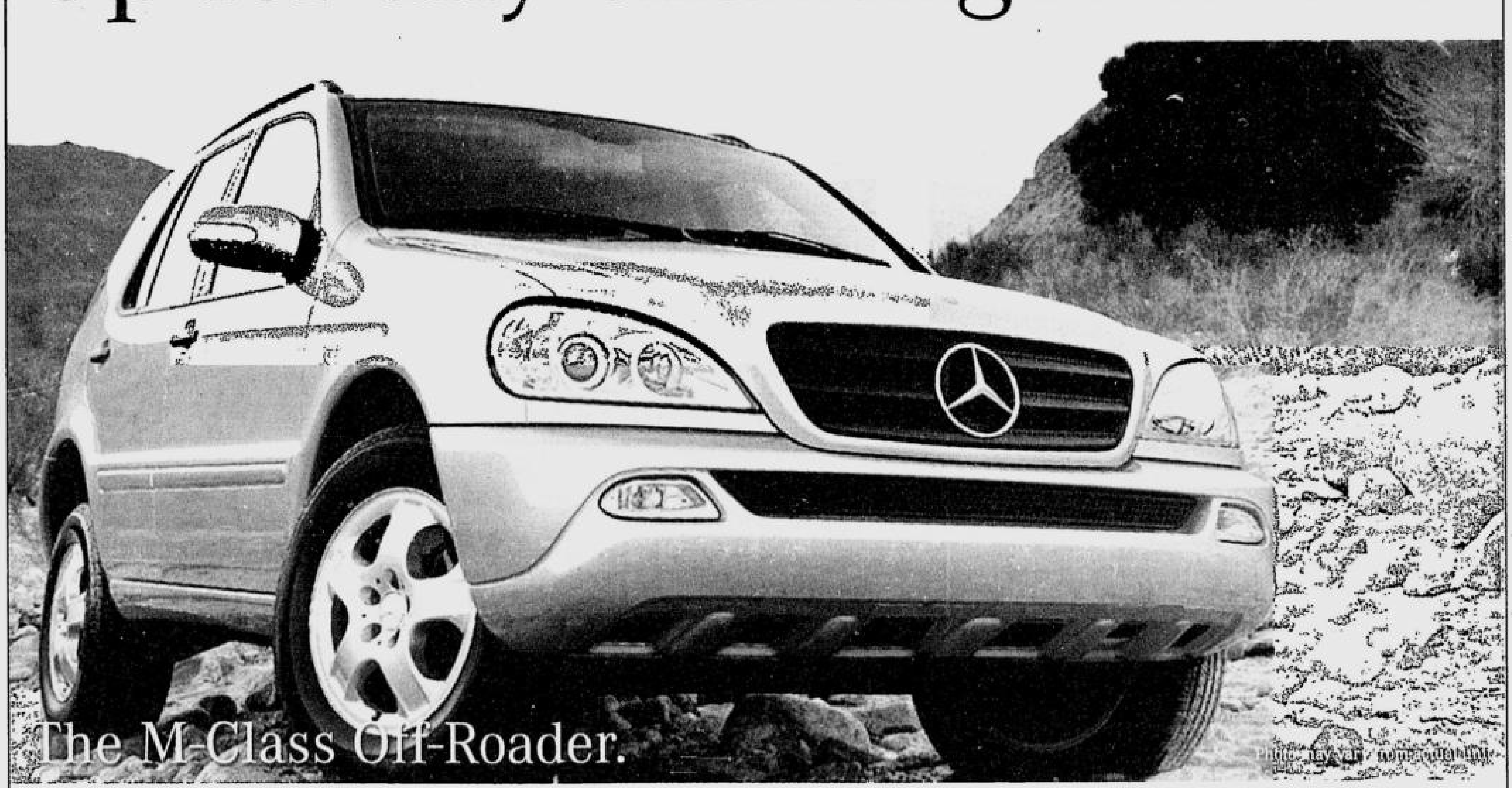
According to Emma Tomelden, Director for Quality and Reliability of PSPI Cabuyao, "We are all proud of this achievement and we owe it all to everyone in the organization. Receiving this certification is such a great honor considering that the automotive industry has one of the highest standards for quality".

TS16949:2002 is a global standard which defines the quality management system requirements for the design and development, production, installation and service of automotive related products. In comparison with TS16949, QS9000 defines the quality management system requirements of the Big 3 American automotive manufacturers (Ford, Chrysler and General Motors) only. SGS, a Swiss-based auditing company concluded that PSPI has a "very high level of compliance with the TS16949 requirements".

PSPI Cabuyao also received the Philippines' first ISO9002 certification in 1991. It also achieved zero audit findings in the company's QS9000 certification audit in 1998.

The TS16949:2002 certification is another milestone in Philips' drive for excellence, a fitting reward for a company that has always been committed to make things better.

About Royal Philips Electronics
Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands is one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest, with sales of EUR 31.8 billion in 2002. It is a global leader in color television sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, and one-chip TV products. Its 170,000 employees in more than 60 countries are active in the areas of consumer electronics, lighting, domestic appliances, components, semiconductors, and medical systems. Philips is quoted on the NYSE (symbol: PHG), London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and other stock exchanges. News from Philips is located at www.philips.com/newscenter.



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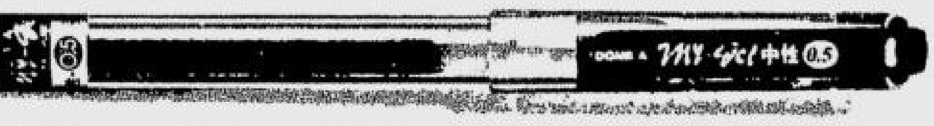

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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

'Changing media landscape' revealed in Pana seminar

MARKETERS face unprecedented challenges in the new millennium. Media has become a veritable ally as it influences the way people live, think and communicate. But in this day and age of increasing media options, media costs and fragmented audiences, which media channels should one utilize?

How do we keep up with changing media habits of the consumers? How do we effectively get our points across them? What are the current developments and innovations in communications that marketers today must draw on in order to be locally and globally competitive? What challenges can be expected along the way?

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), through its education and research committee, will answer all these questions and more in the Changing Media Landscape Seminar.

This seminar will offer vital insights into the diverse and complex sphere of media. Industry experts such as Hans Lopez Vito of McCann-Erickson, Ed Sunico of Unilever Philippines, Nic Gabunada of ABS-CBN Broadcasting, March Ventosa of Hemisphere Leo-Burnett, Angelica Suiza of Adidas Philippines, Mike Enriquez of GMA-7, Lisa Gokongwei of Summit Publishing, Venus Navalta of Universal McCann, August Benitez of Optimedia, Alfonso Tagaysay of Globe Telecom and Reginald Velasco of Nestle Philippines Inc. will share their expertise on stirring topics essential in developing business building strategies.

Seminar topics are: Day 1-June 4: Topic 1: "The Changing Consumer Media Behavior", speaker: Hans Lopez Vito, strategic planning director, McCann-Erickson Philippines; Topic 2: "Consumer Contact Points", speaker: Ed Sunico, country comm. channel manager, Unilever Philippines (PRC) Inc.; Topic 3: "The Changing TV Media Landscape", speaker: Nic Gabunada, VP-sales and marketing ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.;

Day 2-June 5: Topic 4: "The Diminishing Line Between Above and Below the Line", speaker: March Ventosa, managing director, Leo Burnett; Topic 5: "Creative Media Given the Various Contact Points", speaker, Angelica P. Suiza, marketing director, Adidas Philippines Inc.; Topic 6: "The Changing Radio Landscape", speaker, Mike Enriquez, SVP for Radio GMA Network Inc.; Topic 7: "The Changing Print Media Landscape", speaker: Lisa Gokongwei, publisher, Summit Publishing;

Day 3-June 6: Topic 8: "Media Management", speaker, Venus Navalta, SVP/managing director, Universal McCann; Topic 9: "Creative Media", speaker, August Benitez, president, Optimedia; Topic 10: "Interactive Media", speakers, Alfonso "Cholo" Tagaysay, senior marketing manager, value added services, Globe Telecom, and Reginald Velasco, communications interactive media manager, Nestle Philippines Inc.

Pana's Changing Media Landscape Seminar is a project of the Pana education and research committee headed by chair Elizabeth B. Flores and director Sandra C. Puno. Its members are Lulou Asia, Noemi Sta. Maria, Pauline Buenaventura, Fely B. Rosales, Mary Ann Munoz, Donna Canafranca, Toto Aquino, Hermenegildo Atienza, and Cecile Tuazon. For registration, call 890-2989, 890-2990, 890-2991.

Manila Water
BayanTrade

MANILA WATER SIGNS P500-M CONTRACT

Manila Water Co. recently signed an agreement with BayanTrade to purchase over P500 million worth of materials and services using BayanTrade's electronic sourcing and procurement facility. The company is availing itself of BayanTrade's e-Sourcing Plus program with the aim of realizing 10 percent in savings-equivalent to P50 million-on total procurement costs. The company also expects to significantly improve operations as a result of faster and more efficient procurement via the Internet. Shown are (seated, from left) Yen Arzadon, BayanTrade strategic business unit head, Dante Briones, BayanTrade president and chief operations officer, Antonino Aquino, Manila Water president and chief executive officer, Sherisa Nuesa, Manila Water chief financial officer, and Mario Alejandro Suardi, Manila Water group director for capital works. Standing are (from left) Cherokee Chamorro, BayanTrade director for e-bidding services and power, utilities, gas and oil strategic business unit, Melanie Gaite, BayanTrade head for marketing and customer relations, and Rene De Guzman; BayanTrade director for professional services.

2ND NATIONAL MEDIA SUMMIT

Bayview Park Hotel-Manila director of sales and marketing Marie Jean Cordero-de la Cruz (seated 2nd from right) is shown with Daily Informer publisher Bernie G. Miaque (2nd from left) in simple signing ceremonies making the hotel as the venue of the 2nd National Media Summit slated from May 21 to 23 under the auspices of the Federation of Provincial Press Clubs of the Philippines (FPPCP) and the Publishers and Editors League of the Philippines (PELP) headed by Miaque as incumbent president. Also shown are (seated, from right) Aiye A. Yap, director and chair, special projects committee and Precy P. Mendoza, Bayview sales secretary. Standing left is lawyer Arnel P. Alambra with Andy V. Talento, Bayview sales account executive.

PHILIPPINE

DRAGON BOAT QUEST 2003

The Manila Dragons Rowing Team placed 2nd runner-up in the Philippine Dragon Boat Quest 2003 held in Boracay April 3 to 5. The team participated in the 500-meter mixed open category headed by team captain Raul Bumanglag and team manager Ma. Cristina Ocba. Members include Ann Sigrid Limpin, Leda Lamera, Raquel Santiago, Valerie Pacardo, Mark Christian Montinola, Marc Oliver Soliven, Greg Doronila, Melvin David, Timothy Lucero, Francis Kua, Marlon Ilagan, Anh-Nga Celis (bow/left side); Geraldine Bernardo, Ma. Josephine Duque, Ma. Myrna Emelynne Buenafe, Laarni Bernabe, Joel Macawile, Marc Anthony Comia, John Jamasali, Cromwell Gabot, Sherwin Cortez (stroke/right side); and Richard Allan Wong (steerer).

'Rediscovering the Rosary'

AN INSPIRATIONAL exhibit on the theme "Rediscovering the Rosary: A Spiritual Journey" will be formally opened at 10 a.m. of Sunday, May 25, at Glorietta 3, Lower Level, Ayala Mall in Makati by Fr. Francis O. Gustilo, Provincial of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

It will be open to the public daily from May 25 to 30, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by the auxiliaries and the friends of the Word Media Ministry in coordination with the Word and Life Publications, the exhibit serves as among the highlights of the observance of the Year of the Rosary (October 2002 to October 2003).

Its rationale lies mainly on the need for reinforcing general awareness of the contents of the New Mysteries and generating an even greater appreciation and wider propagation of the devotion to the Rosary. His Eminence Jaime L. Cardinal Sin commends the endeavor as "very timely and useful".

Among the features are poster-size visualizations of all the 20 Mysteries, including the "Mysteries of Light" proposed by Pope John Paul II in his recent Apostolic Letter on the Rosary, and many interesting little-known facts that are expected to develop valuable insights and a deeper appreciation of the Rosary devotion.

Admission to the exhibit is free. Interested parishes and schools may borrow the items for a limited time. Arrangements may be made with Rebecca Villatanya at telefax 894-5401.

PJS, Insular Life launch search for 2003 Tofil

THE SEARCH for The Outstanding Filipino (Tofil) for 2003 was launched recently at the Manila Polo Club in Forbes Park, Makati. Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, Tofil 2000 Awardee for Business and Entrepreneurship, was the guest speaker. In his message to the body composed of JCI senators, Insular Life executives, past Tofil awardees, and members of professional and civic organizations, Yuchengco called for true leaders-for statesmen who can raise inspiring visions before the people-entrepreneurs big enough to transform corporations into world-beaters-and professionals who can challenge their peers to measure their worth, using global standards.

Now on its 16th year, the Tofil Award recognizes Filipino men and women, 41 years and older, who have accomplished extraordinary achievements in their field of expertise and have contributed to the uplifting the lives of their countrymen and the development of the nation.

Tofil is an annual search undertaken by the Philippine Jaycee Senate and Insular Life. Through its 16 years of honoring Filipinos with exemplary achievements, Tofil has gained more significance especially in today's competitive environment. Tofil awardees serve as role models whose achievements are at par with global standards but whose life and works are still grounded on time-honored Filipino values.

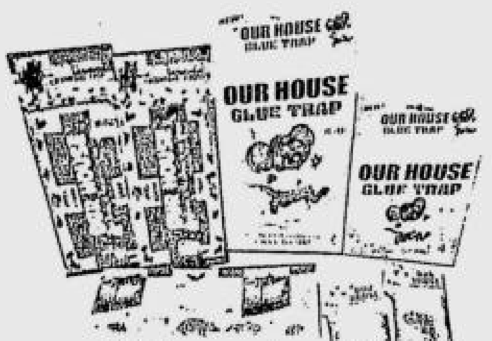
Last year's awardees were Mayor Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr., for government service, Dr. David M. Consunji for construction industry, Dr. Emil Q. Javier for science and technology, and Dr. George SK Ty for banking.

This year's Tofil search is chaired by JCI senator Mario Gatus, who leads a 20-man committee searching for worthy candidates and screen nominations before the final selection by an independent board of judges.

Any individual or organization may nominate a candidate on the official Tofil nomination form. These forms are available at all Philippine Jaycee Senate (PJS) chapter offices and Insular Life offices nationwide. For inquiries, call the Jaycee Senate Secretariat office at 374-4390 and 373-5819 or the Insular Life head office at 771-1818. Nominations should cover accomplishments up to June 30. Deadline for submission of nominations is August 31.

ProductFILES

A new way to get rid of pests



DIRECT Source Inc. (DSI) has developed a new way to eliminate rats, roaches, flies, spiders for home, tree nursery, and highly recommended for commercial and agricultural uses.

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DSI, a company specializing in the production and distribution of quality home products, successfully developed a substance that is able to surmount rats' uncanny intelligence to avoid other traps and poisons.

Each glue trap, roach trap, glue ribbon, and flypaper is made of non-poisonous and super stick formulation, a non-poisonous substance scientifically found safe and effective in eliminating house and garden pests. All four products are now available in all major supermarkets nationwide. For more information, call 365-5555 loc 555 or 888.

Manila Science High reunion

ALL GRADUATES of Manila Science High School Batch '83 are enjoined to attend its reunion on June 14 at the Makati Sports Club. Renew old friendships and reminisce those memorable days in this year's gathering dubbed "Samu't Saring PantasxxYeAh!" Join the fun. Registration starts at 7 p.m. For more details and confirmation of attendance, call Leah Custodio at 0920-9052684, Manny Varias at 0918-9432506 or Gabby Gabinete at 0917-5252675, or log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/masci_83/.

Writing a book via ATV Speakers Network

THE ATV Speakers Network is holding a program on "How to Write and Publish a Book" on Saturday, May 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Splendido Garden Apartelle at 99 Export Bank Avenue (formerly Urban Avenue), Makati City.

Topics include: Why Write a Book, Getting Started, Selecting the Subject, Determining Readership, Writing Clearly, Copyright and ISBN requirements, Parts of the Book, Financing, Promoting and Marketing the Book.

Call Judith, Josie or Ophie for details at 896-8790 or 899-8441.

Clips

Shahani keynotes commencement

FORMER Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani will deliver the commencement address during the graduation rites of Asian Social Institute Inc. (ASI), one of the country's leading graduate schools, at 5 p.m. on May 23 at the PICC. This year's Filipino and foreign graduates come from ASI's masteral program in economics, sociology, pastoral studies, pastoral sociology and social work, as well as its special course Bachelor of Science in Social Work and its doctoral program in Applied Cosmic Anthropology. Also set to graduate are participants of ASI's International Summer Course for Community Development Workers. Msgr. Francisco G. Tantoco Jr., board chair of the Institute, will give the authorization to president Mina M. Ramirez to confer the academic degrees to the graduates.

Figaro 'adopt-a-farm'

FIGARO Foundation Corp., the social service arm of Figaro Coffee Company, in cooperation with the municipality of Amadeo, Cavite, will hold a free orientation seminar on the "Adopt-A-Farm" project. Call Janice at 813-5836 for more information. Since the start of the coffee revolution in Amadeo, Cavite spurred by the farm tours Figaro has organized over the past four years, a lot of interested prospective coffee farmers have inquired about the project. The orientation will be held at the Amadeo Multi-Purpose Hall on May 23, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

NREA sets golf tourney

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association (NREA) will hold its annual golf tournament on May 23 at the all-weather Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal. Dubbed as the 5th Chairman's Cup Invitational Tournament, the activity is part of NREA's year-round sports program. This brings together its members with the leaders of the real estate and housing industry from the private and government sectors under the spirit of camaraderie and friendly sports competition. Invited to lead the ceremonial tee-off are Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon, DAR Sec. Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, Housing Sec. Michael T. Defensor. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, Rep. Ed Zialcita and Rep. Mauricio Domogan. The tournament coincides with the birth anniversary of NREA chair Jose "Ka Pepe" Manalad, the "grand old man of realty." For particulars, call 913-4463 or 912-3492.

Managing conflicts workshop

IN THIS time of conflict-proneness, it is important that people know how to deal with misalignments brought about by individual differences, disagreements on issues, and opposing convictions so that they may lead a rich, full, happy life. These concerns will be addressed in a series of communication-based seminar-workshops to be conducted by OGJavier Consultancy, a management consultancy firm. The series will be keynoted by a half-day Managing Conflicts Workshop on May 23 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City, in cooperation with Diplomat Services Inc. This will be followed by an Effective Communication Techniques workshop on June 6 and a High-Impact Presentation Workshop on June 13. Interested parties can inquire at 872-0061, 889-2376, or e-mail orlygjavier@yahoo.com.

PLAI seminar-workshop

The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI) is holding a seminar-workshop on Library Philosophies, Practices and Challenges of the 21st Centry at Casa Eugenio, Tabaco, Albay May 22 to 24. For inquiries, call Ma. Fe Robles (9315966); Linda Tayona (3027717); Fe Abelardo (5250926); Emma Rey (9315864); Lily Echiverri (9292180); Gigi Barba (7358508).

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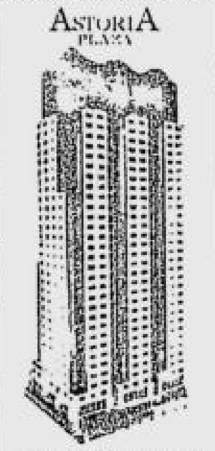

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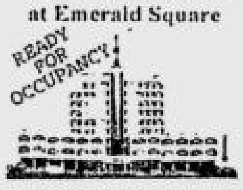

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of AKLAN SAMPAGUITA GARDENS RESORT, INC. with office address at Rizal Street, New Washington, Aklan for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Operator of Tourist Accommodation Facilities (Resort) at a capacity of 41 rooms with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on May 16, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 16th day of May 2003.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–May 23, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 633-93-42
Direct Line : 631-96-40
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2007 / 221

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PSD 03-05-13

The Department of Education through the Payroll Services Division is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 3,500 boxes of tabulating stock forms, 5 ply, size – 11" x 14 7/8", graylines with both sides perforation, 70 gsm for the 1st sheet and 56 gsm for the 2nd to 5th sheets. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P2,408,000.00 for the supply, delivery and administrative cost.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **May 16-28, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.***

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 23, 2003**, 2:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 6, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–May 16 & 23, 2003)

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

ERP-CASCADE is presently seeking **expressions of interest** from companies/groups in the context of its

INTERNAL STAFF TRAINING PROGRAM

Initially identified trainings are:

- ***Microsoft Office XP Training (3 sessions of maximum 3 days)***
- ***Contract Management (2 sessions)***
- ***Video Equipment training (3 sessions of maximum 3 days)***
- ***Negotiation Skills/Stress Management (3 sessions of max 3 days)***
- ***Documentation and document management (3 sessions of max 2 days)***

This list is not an exhaustive one and could be complemented by other ones during the course of the year. All training will need to be conducted either on site (Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya) or in neighboring areas of Northern Luzon. Selected contractors will be expected to undertake all aspects of the training from course design to pre/post-evaluations, eventual post-coaching, as well as all logistical aspects.

Expression of interest (EOI) must include a company profile, professional references and indication of individual training costs as per above list, and must be submitted by latest 30 May 2003 at the following address:

The Project Co-Directors: ERP-CASCADE
Maharlika Highway, Bonfal West, Bayombong, 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
E-mail: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk (preferred but please limit attachments)
Fax: 078-8053611

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture funded by the Philippines Government and the European Commission

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

22 May 2003

EMERGENCY PURCHASE

(Canvass No. 5-28-03 (12) – Request for Quotation)

In view of the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and in accordance with Executive Order No. 201, Section 53 (b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Section 439 of the General Auditing and Accounting Manual (GAAM), the Department of Health is urgently in need of the following medical equipment, supplies, drugs and medicines:

	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:
12 units	1. Infrared Thermal Imaging System with temperature measurement capability
12 units	2. Television 21" power source: 220 VAC, 60 hz, with video in terminal
	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:
500,000 pieces	1. Mask (N95 or P2 or P3) with secure facial seal
2,000 pieces	2. Mask (N100) with secure facial seal
143,640 pairs	3. Gloves Latex slightly powdered
2,000 pieces	4. Safety Goggles
143,640 pieces	5. Gown disposable, longsleeves, long legged, round neck, wrap around with garterized wrist band
143,640 pieces	6. Bouffant Caps disposable
143,640 pairs	7. Shoe Cover/Boots white non-skid grid non-conductive
	ESSENTIAL DRUGS:
20,000 sachet	1. Acetycystein Oral 200 mg/sachet (boxes)
20,000 vials	2. Azithromycin Injection 500 mg (500 vials)
20,000 tablets	3. Azithromycin Oral 500 mg/tab
20,000 vials	4. Cefidipime Injection 1 gram as HCL (200 vials)
20,000 vials	5. Cefotaxime 1 gram IV
20,000 vials	6. Ceftazidime 2 gram IV
20,000 vials	7. Ceftriaxone 1 gram IV
20,000 vials	8. Imipenem
20,000 vials	9. Levofloxacin IV 500 mg (vials)
20,000 vials	10. Meronem 500 mg (vials)
20,000 vials	11. Methyl Prednisolone Acetate Inj. (20 vials)
13,440 bottles	13. IV Fluids

Interested suppliers are enjoined to submit their best price for the above requirements. Quotation forms, containing the detailed specifications, and other information may be secured on May 26-27, 2003 from the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), 2/F Bldg. No. 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, tel. no. (632) 743-83-01 local 3626 and 3627.

Price Quotations must include both unit and total prices, typewritten in both words and figures and placed in a sealed envelope together with the following documents:

1. Certified True Copy of DTI SEC Registration
2. Certified True Copy of Mayor's Permit
3. Sworn Statement of capability to deliver the goods within the indicated period
4. Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) for drugs and medicines

Price Quotations, containing the detailed specifications, with each page duly signed by the authorized company representative and the above-listed documents must be submitted not later than 10 AM May 28, 2003 at the Procurement Division. Opening of sealed envelopes shall commence at 10 AM on May 28, 2003 at the BHDT Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Building No. 24, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Upon receipt of the DOH Purchase Order, the company is required to deliver the goods at the DOH warehouse within a month.

Any purchase arising from this request will be subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. It should be noted that receipt of a particular quotation does not in any way obligate the DOH to award all or any part of the items quoted therein.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation and to annul the process and reject all quotations at any time prior to award, without incurring any liability to the affected supplier(s) or any obligation to inform the same on the grounds of such action.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) Alexander A. Padilla
Undersecretary of Health
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 23 & 24, 2003)

JEG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
with principal office located at
9H Ma. Cristina Street, Cebu City

and

MAI-I RESOURCES CORPORATION
With principal office located at
375-G Acacia Street, Lahug, Cebu City

hereby make the following public disclosure:

Relief From Mandatory Tender Offer Requirement

In its letter dated 21 March 2003, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) granted the joint application of JEG Development Corporation ("JEG") and MAI-I Resources Corporation ("MAI-I") for relief from the Mandatory Tender Offer Requirement under the Securities Regulation Code ("SRC"), covering 257,640,000 new common shares issued to JEG by Vivant Corporation (formerly Philstar.com, Inc.) and 342,360,000 new common shares issued to MAI-I of Vivant Corporation.

The transaction subject of the exemption relates to an increase in the authorized capital stock of Vivant Corporation from P899,520,268.00, divided into 224,880,067 Common shares and 674,640,201 Preferred shares, both with a par value of P1.00 per share, to P 2,000,000,000.00 divided into 1,325,359,799 Common shares and 674,640,201 Preferred shares with a par value of P1.00 per share. JEG subscribed to 257,640,000 new shares from out of the said increase in capital stock, at the price of P1.25 per new share, in exchange for 6,168 common shares in Hijos de F. Escaño, Inc. ("Hijos") owned by JEG and valued at P52,213,868 per Hijos share, while MAI subscribed to 342,360,000 new common shares of Vivant Corporation out of the same increase in capital stock, at the same price, in exchange for 8,196 shares of Hijos owned by MAI-I at the same valuation. The application for increase in capital stock was approved by the SEC on 08 April 2003.

The exemption or relief from the mandatory tender offer requirement of the SRC granted by the SEC was claimed and granted on the ground that the subscriptions by JEG and MAI-I of the newly issued shares of Vivant Corporation are purchases of newly issued shares from unissued capital stock under SRC Rule 19.1 (3) (a) (i)

This publication is made in compliance with the Securities Regulation Code and SRC Rule 19 1 (3) (b)

(PDI–May 23 & 30, 2003)

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

GININTUANG MASAGANANG ANI

ERP-CASCADE is presently seeking **expressions of interest** from companies/groups in the context of its

DESIGN OF PUBLIC ANNUAL REPORT AND OTHER PROMOTION MATERIALS

These materials include amongst others:

- ***Public Annual Report (as per EU and GoP guidelines)***
- ***Project Brochure and Pamphlet***
- ***Promotional videos on CASCADE (activities, achievements and process documentation)***
- ***Poster and ads***
- ***Promotional Items***

Interested companies should be aware that part or all material development will need to be undertaken on site (Nueva Vizcaya & Benguet).

all Expressions of interest (EOI) should include a company profile, professional references, indication of professional fees and samples of similar works will also be required. They must be submitted by latest 30 May 2003 at the following address:

The Project Co-Directors: ERP-CASCADE
Maharlika Highway, Bonfal West, Bayombong, 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
E-mail: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk (preferred but please limit attachments)
Fax: 078-8053611

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture funded by the Philippines Government and the European Commission

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : May 9, 2003
Reference No. : ____________

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp03.LSRP.VI-0004, Schedule I**
   Title : **Construction, Erection and Installation of 230kV & 138kV Substation Equipment for Ormoc Substation**
   Location **Ormoc City (Visayas)**
2. The works to be performed by the Contractor shall consist of furnishing labor, materials, equipment, supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery, revamping, installing and testing of substation equipment and materials to complete the 230kV & 138kV Ormoc Substation. The work also includes construction of substation equipment foundation, warehouse, pumphouse, installation of cable trays and cable trench.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P28,970,870.00 from the Internal Cash Generation of the National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars issued by IAC:
   Size Range : **Medium 'Sub-Category B' Specialty Electrical Works**
   License Category : **A 'Specialty: Electrical Works'**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible bidders shall be invited by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Contractor's offer to be contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **May 21, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, National Transmission Corporation, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of Eight Hundred Pesos **(P800.00)** per copy.

   [illegible] submission [illegible] duly [illegible] accomplished Applica[illegible] [illegible] and stateme[illegible] [illegible]:00 p.m. [illegible] June 2[illegible] 2003 [illegible] submitted at the registration office with address [illegible] If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the TransCo's List of Registered Contractors who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **W. SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - May 23, 28 & June 3, 2003)

[redacted] NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC)** invites qualified Engineering Consulting Firms to apply for Eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible to bid for Project Management Consultant (PMC) services to carry out the required technical/engineering services, project management support, and construction supervision for the following projects:

1. Rehabilitation/Construction of the Alabang Viaduct (Toll Road 1-TR1), and Construction of the South Luzon Extension (Toll Road 3 – TR 3) from Calamba, Laguna to Sto Tomas, Batangas; and
2. Construction of the Lipa City - Batangas City (stage 2) of the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR).

Interested Engineering Consulting Firms are required to submit an expression of interest on any or both of the above listed Projects and details of their technical capabilities and similar related experience by sending their names and eligibility documents properly labeled as **"LETTER OF INTENT FOR ELIGIBILITY CHECK FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE (Project/s)"** to the following address not later than **3:00 PM of June 9, 2003**:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
8th Floor, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 840-11-46; 840-48-38 local 256
Fax No. 840-4862
Attention: Mr. Al Mailhan

Eligibility requirements and forms may be secured at the above address between **May 26 to June 4, 2003.**

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bidding, Bid Evaluation and Awarding of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act no. 9184 and all other applicable rules and regulations.

The NDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government. NDC further assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the prospective bidders for any expense incurred in the processing of their eligibility to bid and/or in the preparation of the bid.

(PDI–May 23 & 31, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
National Telecommunications Commission
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the supply of IT Equipment and Services to the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **May 26, 2003** to be submitted not later than **June 10, 2003, 5:00 p.m.**, through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **June 19 to 20, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **July 1, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **July 16, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. and July 16, 2003 at 2:15 p.m.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes**; one (1) envelope containing the **eligibility requirements, two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and two (2) envelopes containing the financial component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 23 & 30 2003)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of AKLAN SAMPAGUITA GARDENS RESORT, INC. with office address at Rizal Street, New Washington, Aklan for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Operator of Tourist Accommodation Facilities (Resort) at a capacity of 41 rooms with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on May 16, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 16th day of May 2003.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–May 23, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

22 May 2003

EMERGENCY PURCHASE

(Canvass No. 5-28-03 (12) – Request for Quotation)

In view of the threat of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and in accordance with Executive Order No. 201, Section 53 (b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Section 439 of the General Auditing and Accounting Manual (GAAM), the Department of Health is urgently in need of the following medical equipment, supplies, drugs and medicines:

	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:
12 units	1. Infrared Thermal Imaging System with temperature measurement capability
12 units	2. Television 21" power source: 220 VAC, 60 hz, with video in terminal
	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:
500,000 pieces	1. Mask (N95 or P2 or P3) with secure facial seal
2,000 pieces	2. Mask (N100) with secure facial seal
143,640 pairs	3. Gloves Latex slightly powdered
2,000 pieces	4. Safety Goggles
143,640 pieces	5. Gown disposable, longsleeves, long legged, round neck, wrap around with garterized wrist band
143,640 pieces	6. Bouffant Caps disposable
143,640 pairs	7. Shoe Cover/Boots white non-skid grid non-conductive
	ESSENTIAL DRUGS:
20,000 sachet	1. Acetylcystein Oral 200 mg/sachet (boxes)
20,000 vials	2. Azithromycin Injection 500 mg (500 vials)
20,000 tablets	3. Azithromycin Oral 500 mg/tab
20,000 vials	4. Cefidipime Injection 1 gram as HCL (200 vials)
20,000 vials	5. Cefotaxime 1 gram IV
20,000 vials	6. Ceftazidime 2 gram IV
20,000 vials	7. Ceftriaxone 1 gram IV
20,000 vials	8. Imipenem
20,000 vials	9. Levofloxacin IV 500 mg (vials)
20,000 vials	10. Meronem 500 mg (vials)
20,000 vials	11. Methyl Prednisolone Acetate Inj. (20 vials)
13,440 bottles	13. IV Fluids

Interested suppliers are enjoined to submit their best price for the above requirements. Quotation forms, containing the detailed specifications, and other information may be secured on May 26-27, 2003 from the Procurement Division, Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), 2/F Bldg. No. 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, tel. no. (632) 743-83-01 local 3626 and 3627.

Price Quotations must include both unit and total prices, typewritten in both words and figures and placed in a sealed envelope together with the following documents:

1. Certified True Copy of DTI SEC Registration
2. Certified True Copy of Mayor's Permit
3. Sworn Statement of capability to deliver the goods within the indicated period
4. Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) for drugs and medicines

Price Quotations, containing the detailed specifications, with each page duly signed by the authorized company representative and the above-listed documents must be submitted not later than 10 AM May 28, 2003 at the Procurement Division. Opening of sealed envelopes shall commence at 10 AM on May 28, 2003 at the BHDT Conference Room, 2nd Flr., Building No. 24, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Upon receipt of the DOH Purchase Order, the company is required to deliver the goods at the DOH warehouse within a month.

Any purchase arising from this request will be subject to the usual government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. It should be noted that receipt of a particular quotation does not in any way obligate the DOH to award all or any part of the items quoted therein.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation and to annul the process and reject all quotations at any time prior to award, without incurring any liability to the affected supplier(s) or any obligation to inform the same on the grounds of such action.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) Alexander A. Padilla
Undersecretary of Health
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 23 & 24, 2003)

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC)** invites qualified Engineering Consulting Firms to apply for Eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible to bid for Project Management Consultant (PMC) services to carry out the required technical/engineering services, project management support, and construction supervision for the following projects:

1. Rehabilitation/Construction of the Alabang Viaduct (Toll Road 1-TR1), and Construction of the South Luzon Extension (Toll Road 3 – TR 3) from Calamba, Laguna to Sto. Tomas, Batangas; and
2. Construction of the Lipa City – Batangas City (stage 2) of the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR).

Interested Engineering Consulting Firms are required to submit an expression of interest on any or both of the above listed Projects and details of their technical capabilities and similar related experience by sending their names and eligibility documents properly labeled as **"LETTER OF INTENT FOR ELIGIBILITY CHECK FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE (Project/s)"** to the following address not later than **3:00 PM of June 9, 2003**:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
8th Floor, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 840-11-46; 840-48-38 local 256
Fax No. 840-4862
Attention: Mr. Al Malihan

Eligibility requirements and forms may be secured at the above address between **May 26 to June 4, 2003.**

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bidding, Bid Evaluation and Awarding of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act no. 9184 and all other applicable rules and regulations.

The NDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government. NDC further assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the prospective bidders for any expense incurred in the processing of their eligibility to bid and/or in the preparation of the bid.

(PDI–May 23 & 31, 2003)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 633-93-42
Direct Line : 631-96-40
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2007 / 221

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PSD 03-05-13

The Department of Education through the Payroll Services Division is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for 3,500 boxes of tabulating stock forms, 5 ply, size – 11" x 14 7/8", graylines with both sides perforation, 70 gsm for the 1st sheet and 56 gsm for the 2nd to 5th sheets. For purposes of record and in compliance with the law, the Department has an approved budget of P2,408,000.00 for the supply, delivery and administrative cost.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **May 16-28, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at ***http://www.deped.gov.ph.***

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 23, 2003**, 2:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on **June 6, 2003** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI–May 16 & 23, 2003)

JEG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
with principal office located at
9H Ma. Cristina Street, Cebu City

and

MAI-I RESOURCES CORPORATION
With principal office located at
375-G Acacia Street, Lahug, Cebu City

hereby make the following public disclosure:

Relief From Mandatory Tender Offer Requirement

In its letter dated 21 March 2003, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) granted the joint application of JEG Development Corporation ("JEG") and MAI-I Resources Corporation ("MAI-I") for relief from the Mandatory Tender Offer Requirement under the Securities Regulation Code ("SRC"), covering 257,640,000 new common shares issued to JEG by Vivant Corporation (formerly Philstar.com, Inc.) and 342,360,000 new common shares issued to MAI-I of Vivanj Corporation.

The transaction subject of the exemption relates to an increase in the authorized capital stock of Vivant Corporation from P899,520,268.00, divided into 224,880,067 Common shares and 674,640,201 Preferred shares, both with a par value of P1.00 per share, to P 2,000,000,000.00 divided into 1,325,359,799 Common shares and 674,640,201 Preferred shares with a par value of P1.00 per share. JEG subscribed to 257,640,000 new shares from out of the said increase in capital stock, at the price of P1.25 per new share, in exchange for 6,168 common shares in Hijos de F. Escaño, Inc. ("Hijos") owned by JEG and valued at P52,213.868 per Hijos share, while MAI subscribed to 342,360,000 new common shares of Vivant Corporation out of the same increase in capital stock, at the same price, in exchange for 8,196 shares of Hijos owned by MAI-I at the same valuation. The application for increase in capital stock was approved by the SEC on 08 April 2003.

The exemption or relief from the mandatory tender offer requirement of the SRC granted by the SEC was claimed and granted on the ground that the subscriptions by JEG and MAI-I of the newly issued shares of Vivant Corporation are purchases of newly issued shares from unissued capital stock under SRC Rule 19.1 (3) (a) (I).

This publication is made in compliance with the Securities Regulation Code and SRC Rule 19.1 (3) (b).

(PDI–May 23 & 30, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
National Telecommunications Commission
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers to apply for eligibility, and to submit bid proposals for the supply of IT Equipment and Services to the Commission.

Registration requirements could be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod**, Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **May 26, 2003** to be submitted not later than **June 10, 2003, 5:00 p.m.**, through the BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **June 19 to 20, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One (1) Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **July 1, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.** at NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **July 16, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. and July 16, 2003 at 2:15 p.m.**, respectively. Bidders shall submit **five (5) separate sealed envelopes; one (1)** envelope containing the **eligibility requirements, two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and two (2) envelopes containing the financial component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Executive Order 40"**.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO V. CABARIOS**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 23 & 30, 2003)

Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

ERP-CASCADE is presently seeking **expressions of interest**
from companies/groups in the context of its

INTERNAL STAFF TRAINING PROGRAM

Initially identified trainings are:

- ***Microsoft Office XP Training (3 sessions of maximum 3 days)***
- ***Contract Management (2 sessions)***
- ***Video Equipment training (3 sessions of maximum 3 days)***
- ***Negotiation Skills/Stress Management (3 sessions of max 3 days)***
- ***Documentation and document management (3 sessions of max 2 days)***

This list is not an exhaustive one and could be complemented by other ones during the course of the year. All training will need to be conducted either on site (Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya) or in neighboring areas of Northern Luzon. Selected contractors will be expected to undertake all aspects of the training from course design to pre/post-evaluations, eventual post-coaching, as well as all logistical aspects.

Expression of interest (EOI) must include a company profile, professional references and indication of individual training costs as per above list, and must be submitted by latest 30 May 2003 at the following address:

The Project Co-Directors: ERP-CASCADE
Maharlika Highway, Bonfal West, Bayombong, 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
E-mail: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk (preferred but please limit attachments)
Fax: 078-8053611

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture funded by the Philippines Government and the European Commission

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Department of Agriculture
CARABALLO & SOUTHERN CORDILLERA
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
A PROGRAMME FOR SELF-RELIANCE

ERP-CASCADE is presently seeking **expressions of interest**
from companies/groups in the context of its

DESIGN OF PUBLIC ANNUAL REPORT AND OTHER PROMOTION MATERIALS

These materials include amongst others:

- ***Public Annual Report (as per EU and GoP guidelines)***
- ***Project Brochure and Pamphlet***
- ***Promotional videos on CASCADE (activities, achievements and process documentation)***
- ***Poster and ads***
- ***Promotional Items***

Interested companies should be aware that part or all material development will need to be undertaken on site (Nueva Vizcaya & Benguet).

all Expressions of Interest (EOI) should include a company profile, professional references, indication of professional fees and samples of similar works will also be required. They must be submitted by latest 30 May 2003 at the following address:

The Project Co-Directors: ERP-CASCADE
Maharlika Highway, Bonfal West, Bayombong, 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
E-mail: cascade_erp@yahoo.co.uk (preferred but please limit attachments)
Fax: 078-8053611

CASCADE is a special project of the Department of Agriculture funded by the Philippines Government and the European Commission

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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Date : May 9, 2003
Reference No. : ____________

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp03.LSRP.VI-0004, Schedule I**
   Title : **Construction, Erection and Installation of 230kV & 138kV Substation Equipment for Ormoc Substation**
   Location : **Ormoc City (Visayas)**
2. The works to be performed by the Contractor shall consist of furnishing labor, materials, equipment, supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery, revamping, installing and testing of substation equipment and materials to complete the 230kV & 138kV Ormoc Substation. The work also includes construction of substation equipment foundation, warehouse, pumphouse, installation of cable trays and cable trench.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is P28,970,870.00 from the Internal Cash Generation of the National Transmission Corporation.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project with the following License and Registration Particulars issued by IAC:
   Size Range : **Medium 'Sub-Category B' Specialty Electrical Works**
   License Category : **A 'Specialty: Electrical Works'**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible bidders shall be invited by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Contractor's offer to be contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **May 21, 2003** at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, National Transmission Corporation, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of Eight **Hundred Pesos (P800.00) per copy.**

   Deadline [illegible] submission of duly accomplished Applicat[illegible] [illegible] documents and statements shall be on or before 2:00 p.m. [illegible] **June 21, 2003** and shall be submitted at the registration office with address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
8. Contractor, not yet included in the TransCo's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
   - Contractor's License
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **W. SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - May 23, 28 & June 3, 2003)

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Ricardo Lansang Saplala

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 21, 2003 at the age of 68.

He is survived by his loving wife **Adoracion**; children **Rio, Rita & Anna**; daughter-in-law **Malou**; son-in-law **Vener**; grandchildren **Tin-Tin, Jomar, Vincent & Marveen**; brothers & sisters, nephews & nieces.

His remains lie in state at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, May 25, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park-Marikina Crematorium.

"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope."
Psalm 62:6

MARIQUITA SAN VICENTE CASTELO

of Sto. Domingo & San Isidro, Nueva Ecija and Kamuning, Quezon City

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - 1948 to 1979
GIRL SCOUTS of the PHILIPPINES

FOUNDER,
SOROPTIMIST INT'L PHILIPPINES REGION

Peacefully joined her Creator
on Tuesday, 28th of May 2003 at the age of 90.

Her loving niece **Nena "Vicky" Magadia** and loving niece **Nene Divinagracia**, other nieces & nephews mourn her passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Imperial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 25, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, #141 Scout Fuentebella St., Kamuning, Quezon City.

ROBERTO S. ESTEVEZ, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 20, 2003 at the age of 76.

His bereaved children **JAY & LUDY, CHITO, RENE & YAYANG, JOEY**; grandchildren **REN, MAXINE, YANNI, YO, SUY & PAO**; brothers **PEPING & EDDIE**; sister **LYDA**; brothers & sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 25, 2003 at Montalban Memorial Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ADELIA MATA PAYAWAL

Wife of the late AMANDO S. PAYAWAL
of Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and San Miguel, Bulacan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 22, 2003 at the age of 95.

Her loving children **JUDGE OSCAR M. PAYAWAL** and **MILAGROS P. PAYAWAL**, **MANUEL** (†) and **JEAN P. PAYAWAL**; grandchildren **ANDRE** and **ZORAHAYDA**, **DR. OSCAR JR.** and **DRA. DIANA**, **LARRY**, **AURORA** and **JOEY**, **ANN MARI** and **RUPERTO**, **ANTHONY** and **RACQUEL**; sisters **PILARICA** and **FILIPINA**, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel C, Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 25, 2003 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK

3F Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Avenue, Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711 to 15. Direct Line 651-0737, 648-2196. Telefax 651-0756

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
PEDRITO CASTOR	May 23, 2003	10:00 AM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park, Calamba City	B6 L3 VILLA VALENTINA PARIAN Calamba City
EUGENIO SIBBALUCA	May 25, 2003	10:00 AM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park, Calamba City	Purok 5, Camp Vicente Lim Mayapa, Calamba City
REMEDIOS J. GALLETES	May 25, 2003	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Angono, Rizal	0206 Milkyway St. Constellation Homes Angono, Rizal

E-mail address: sales@holygardens.com

www.holygardens.com

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In Loving Memory

on the Twelfth Death Anniversary of

GORGONIA MEDINA VITUG

of Arayat, Pampanga and Quezon City
who joined our Creator on May 24, 1991

Masses will be offered at the following churches on May 24, 2003:

St. Catherine Parish Church, Arayat, Pampanga ....6:30 AM
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Q.C. ....12:15 PM
Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Brixton Hill, Q.C. ....6:30 PM

> **"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."**
> — Psalm 21:15

CMDR. ROLANDO NAVARETTE KAGAOAN, SR.

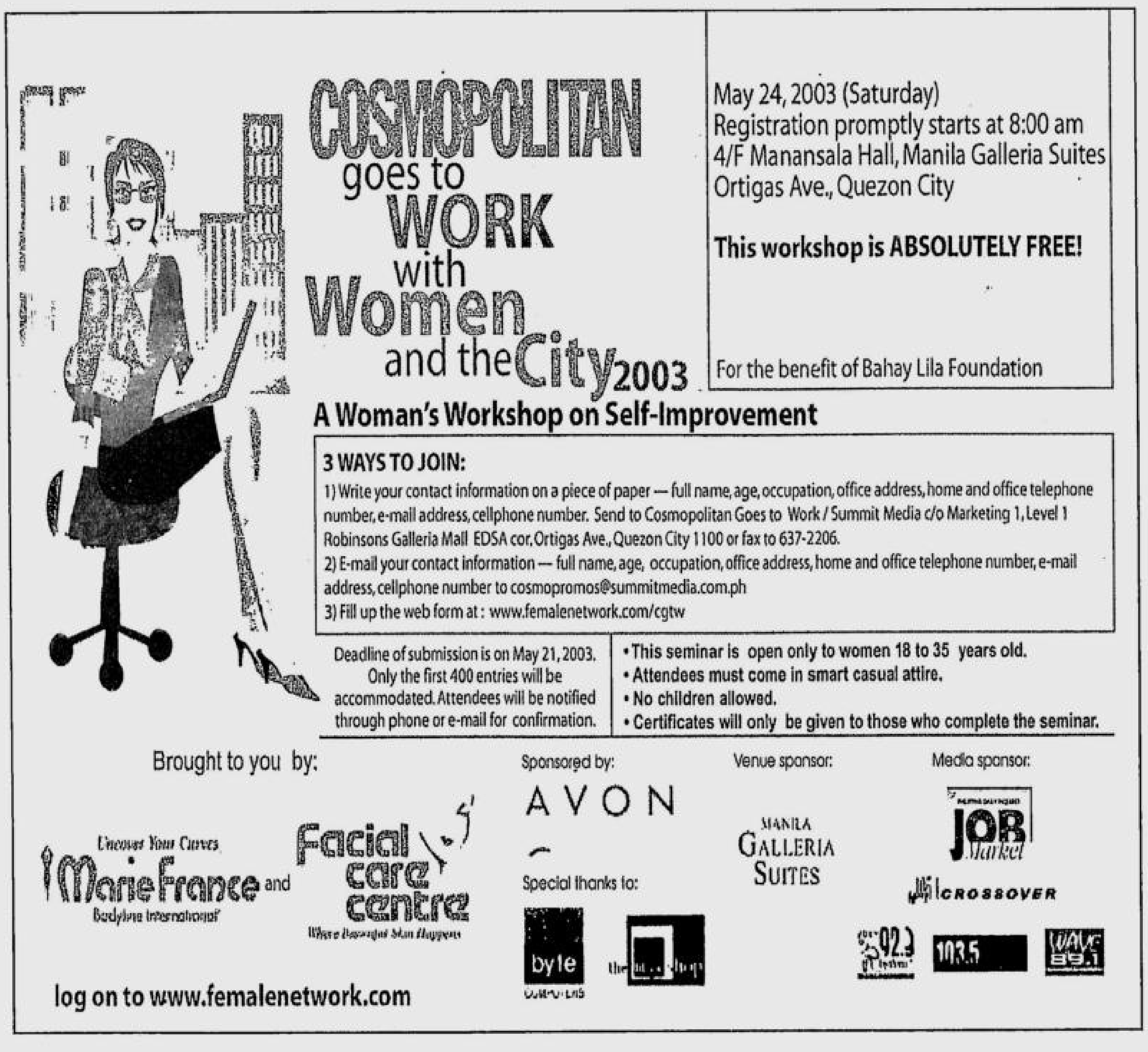
Philippine: Kingspoint Merchant Marine Academy
May 28, 1925 - May 22, 2003

His loving wife **Pilar (Peaches)**; children and in-laws **Monching** (†) & **Nanette, Joselito & Cosette**; grandchildren **Allan, Angela, Andrew & Jose Raphael**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Chapel, Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 25, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches.

CLASSIFIEDS



COSMOPOLITAN goes to WORK with Women and the City 2003

A Woman's Workshop on Self-Improvement

May 24, 2003 (Saturday)
Registration promptly starts at 8:00 am
4/F Manansala Hall, Manila Galleria Suites
Ortigas Ave., Quezon City

This workshop is ABSOLUTELY FREE!

For the benefit of Bahay Lila Foundation

3 WAYS TO JOIN:
1) Write your contact information on a piece of paper — full name, age, occupation, office address, home and office telephone number, e-mail address, cellphone number. Send to Cosmopolitan Goes to Work / Summit Media c/o Marketing 1, Level 1 Robinsons Galleria Mall EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Quezon City 1100 or fax to 637-2206.
2) E-mail your contact information — full name, age, occupation, office address, home and office telephone number, e-mail address, cellphone number to cosmopromos@summitmedia.com.ph
3) Fill up the web form at : www.femalenetwork.com/cgtw

Deadline of submission is on May 21, 2003. Only the first 400 entries will be accommodated. Attendees will be notified through phone or e-mail for confirmation.

- This seminar is open only to women 18 to 35 years old.
- Attendees must come in smart casual attire.
- No children allowed.
- Certificates will only be given to those who complete the seminar.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) Region I, through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the **Interior Renovation of Staffhouse at Loakan, Baguio City.** Scope of works for the said repair works shall not be limited to the following:

a. Repair works at Ground floor including extension of kitchen,
b. Repair of second floor,
c. Repair of third floor,
d. Repair of common toilet and baths at ground, second and third floors,
e. Provision of steel casement window and flush door,
f. Repair of interior walls and ceiling,
g. Provision of chimney, and
h. Upgrading of electrical system.

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING
Issuance of RES Form – May 26-28, 2003 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Submission of Accomplished RES Form – June 4-6, 2003 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Contractors – June 11, 2003 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)
Pre-Bidding Conference – June 18, 2003 (10:00 AM)
Submission and Opening of Bids – June 25, 2003 (10:00 AM)

Approved Budget for the project – **P1,997,769.12**
Contractor's Category **LIMITED TO SMALL "B"** for Building

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding and Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bids, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of EO 40 and PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), as amended.

Request for Eligibility Screening (RES Form) may be secured and submitted at NFA-RPBAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Regional Office, San Juan, La Union upon presentation of Letter of Intent, updated PCAB/IAC License (Original) and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Plans and Specifications and Bidding documents shall be issued to Eligible contractors/bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

NFA shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIANO Q. MOLINA**
Asst. Regional Director & Chairman, NFA-RPBAC

(PDI–May 12 & 23, 2003)

Starting today, idle time can be email-those-photographs time

GlobeQUEST introduces WIZ.

Wireless Internet Zone is an advanced wireless service that lets you connect to the Internet at ultra-fast broadband speeds--without the wires.

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WIZ

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BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Truth plus relevance equal higher sales

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FLIP through the pages of books and magazines that list down the most effective ads produced through the decades and you will see that there is a common thread that goes through them.

These effective ads are based on some truth about the brand or product and are relevant to the needs and wants of the target market.

Thus, consumers stop to read the message or listen better to a commercial.

Truth and relevance together in one advertisement should later translate to higher sales for the particular product or at least a heightened awareness. After all, the whole thinking behind a product advertising campaign is to get more people to buy the product or service.

Companies selling the product or the service are largely responsible for half of the equation.

They have to make sure that they can prove what they claim in their ads. Their detergent should really make clothes whiter, a courier firm should really deliver products on time and credit cards should really be accepted.

Failures to live up to promises will not only earn the public's ire, but will also damage the credibility of the advertising industry as a whole.

The advertising firms, on the other hand, are faced with the challenge of taking that product or service and building an advertising campaign around it that strikes a chord with the targeted market.

BBDO University Worldwide director Antony Poole says in an interview that the key to crafting relevant ads is developing an insight or deeper understanding of the target audience.

Multinational companies such as Mercedes Benz and BMW, for instance, have established firm relationships with their target audience. Thus, despite the passage of the years and the entry of more car companies, Mercedes Benz is still associated with status while BMW is being positioned as a driver's dream car.

Poole adds that that while it may be difficult to teach the creative staff of an ad agency to be "more creative", they can be trained or be asked to go through mental calisthenics to be able to spot potential relationships between people and products or services.

"What stands out are advertisements that offer something slightly new… if you are able to make a connection that was not so obvious before, it resonates very deeply with people," Poole explains.

TOOLE

The connection should be limited to the product and its specific target audience for an advertisement to be effective.

"It is a classic marketing mistake to be everything to everybody. I believe that the best ad-

TRUTH/ B2-2

Asia, but not RP, shines in Clio awards

By Roger Pe
Contributor

ASIA, but not the Philippines, made a presence in the 44th Annual Clio Awards, the Oscars of worldwide advertising, held in Miami Beach, Florida last May 20, 2003. The world's largest and most famous advertising awards show competition was chaired by David Droga, worldwide Executive Creative Director of Publicis (print and poster) and Bob Scarpelli, DDB US Chief Creative Officer (television and radio).

BBDO Singapore led the Asian medal onslaught with two Golds for Kentucky Fried Chicken poster campaigns "Mechanic," "Nail Polish" and "Henna." Dentsu Tokyo, DDB Malaysia, Saatchi & Saatchi Mumbai and Saatchi & Saatchi Singapore won one Silver each for its "Don't Get Tied Down," "Toothache," "Clothesline," and "Hidden Message" campaigns, respectively.

Ogilvy & Mather Singapore won 3 Bronzes for Gaelic Inn's "Bikini," "Topless" and "Suspenders" poster campaign, single poster entry "Topless" and "Footpath," "Office" and "Harbour" campaign for Spade Magazine; Saatchi & Saatchi Bangkok bagged 2 Bronzes for "Gladiolus" and "Far Objects" campaign; Saatchi & Saatchi Hong Kong won a bronze for its "Cowboy," "Snail" and "Candles" campaign for Oxygen Broadband; and Saatchi & Saatchi Malaysia picked one bronze for its "Baby," "Pain" and "Beauty" campaign for Stills Production House.

J. Walter Thompson Bangkok was the most scintillating Asian winner in television and cinema category, bringing home a Silver for its "Home," "Park" and "Beach" campaign for Chiclets Stick.

It also won a bronze for Orange's "Get Closer"; Hakuhodo Tokyo took home two bronzes while Saatchi & Saatchi Bangkok, Leo Burnett Singapore and Flagship Bangkok took a bronze each.

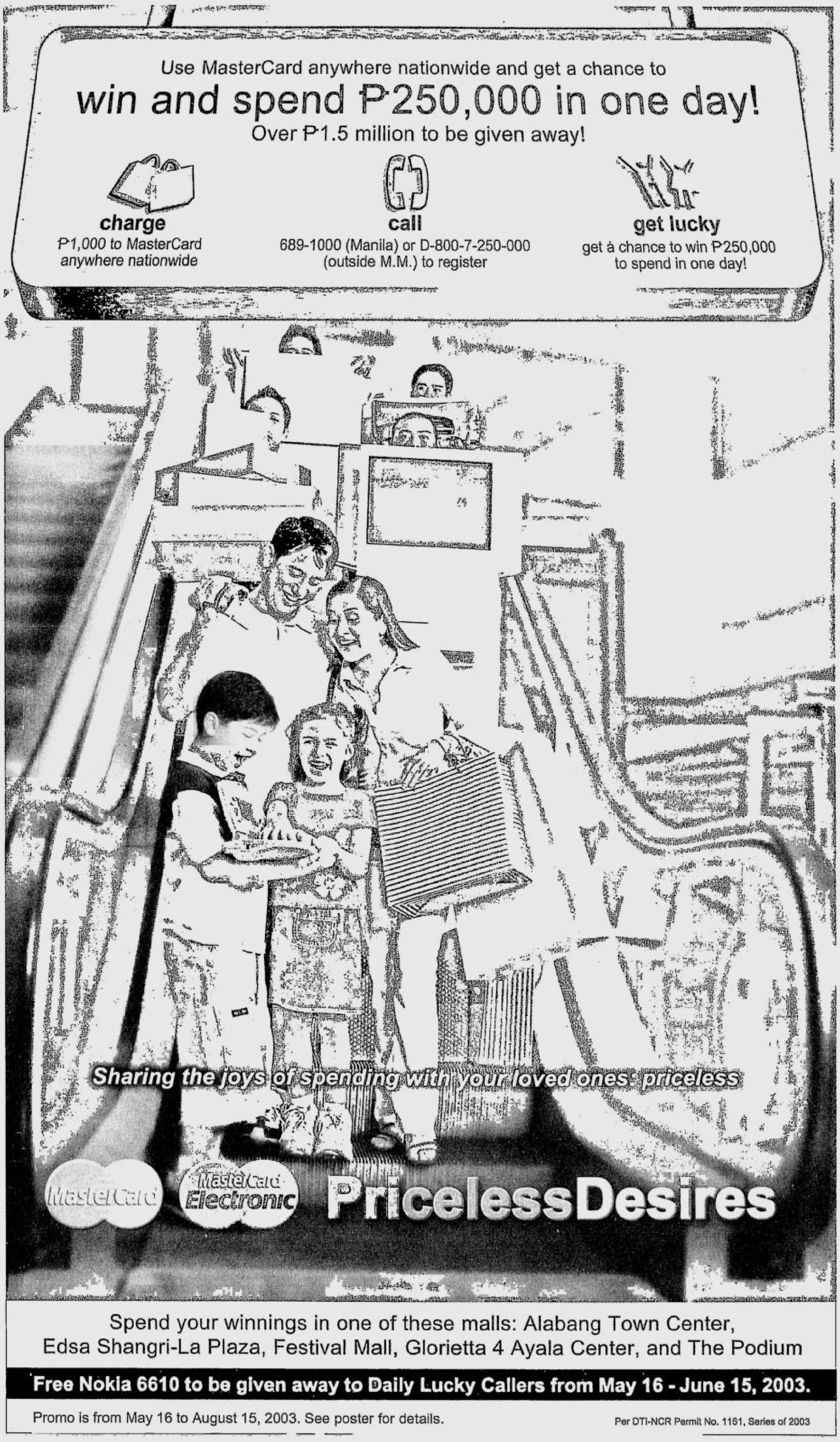
An Ikea spot created by Crispin Porter and Bogusky, an agency based in Miami, won the Grand Clio for TV while DDB Chicago made a back-to-back Grand Clio win for radio for its Bud Light "Men of Genius" campaign. It is a shot from the point of view of an eponymous object which is discarded when its owner gets a new Ikea lamp. A Swedish character faces the TV screen at the end of the commercial and says "Many of you feel bad for this lamp. That is because you are crazy. It has no feelings."

"Men of Genius" also stirred debates about what the Grand Clio should recognize—original, groundbreaking or simply the best of show. In all counts, the five-year old campaign by DDB Chicago was adjudged the clear winner.

A total of 42 Clios were handed out this year in all categories combined. 21 were given to television and 3 to radio, surpassing last year's total of 15.

Anheuser-Busch, makers of Budweiser beer was named Advertiser of the Year and DDB Chicago was proclaimed Agency of the Year. The latter's network DDB Worldwide was named Agency of the Year. Neil French, former worldwide creative director of Ogilvy

ASIA/ B2-2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Spend your winnings in one of these malls: Alabang Town Center, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza, Festival Mall, Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, and The Podium

Free Nokia 6610 to be given away to Daily Lucky Callers from May 16 - June 15, 2003.

Promo is from May 16 to August 15, 2003. See poster for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1161, Series of 2003

Taxpayers' bill of rights and obligations

By Paulo T. Villareal
SGV & Co.

BEING examined by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) should not make a taxpayer uneasy. While it is possible that the BIR examiner will say that you did not pay enough taxes, it does not automatically mean that you should.

Taxpayers have the right under the National Internal Revenue Code to contest deficiency tax assessments. If the taxpayer's reasons are valid then the deficiency tax assessment will be cancelled.

A taxpayer must realize that he has rights guaranteed by law. The BIR compiled these taxpayer's rights and posted them on its website (www.bir.gov.ph) under the heading Taxpayers' Bill of Rights and Obligations.

These rights are grouped under three main headings:

1. General Audit Procedures and Documentation;
2. Taxpayer's Obligations and Privileges; and,
3. Remedies of the Bureau in the Audit Process and Collection of Delinquent Accounts.

General audit

This group relates to the taxpayer's rights during an examination by the BIR from the time it issues the Letter of Authority (LA) to the time it concludes the examination.

Before an examination can be conducted, there must be a valid LA duly served upon a taxpayer. Depending on who has jurisdiction over a taxpayer to be examined, the LA is issued by either the commissioner of Internal Revenue or the regional director.

LAs issued by unauthorized officers of the BIR are therefore void and the taxpayer is not bound to honor these. The LA must be served within 30 days from its issuance. Otherwise, the taxpayer may refuse to honor it unless it has been revalidated.

Once the LA is served, a revenue officer has 120 days to conduct the audit and submit the required report of investigation. If the revenue officer cannot complete the report within the period, the officer must submit a progress report and surrender the LA to his head office for revalidation.

Taxpayers can only be examined once every year for income tax purposes. However, the BIR may examine the books again under the following conditions:

1. There is fraud, irregularities, or mistakes as determined by the commissioner;
2. The taxpayer requests reinvestigation;
3. It is needed to verify compliance with withholding tax laws and regulations;
4. It is needed to verify capital gains tax liabilities; and,
5. It falls under the commissioner's power under Section 5(B) to obtain information from other persons.

If after the examination, the revenue officer recommends the issuance of a deficiency tax assessment, the BIR informs the taxpayer by inviting the taxpayer to an informal conference. The informal conference takes place within 15 days from receipt of the notice.

The informal conference gives the taxpayer the opportunity to explain its side on the recommended deficiency tax assessment.

Under Revenue Regulations No. 12-99, if a taxpayer fails to reply to the Notice of Informal Conference, it is considered in default and the recommendation is forwarded to the assessment division of the regional office or to the commissioner or his duly authorized representative for appropriate review and action.

Obligations and privileges

A taxpayer is duty bound to acknowledge receipt of a valid LA and to present within reasonable time the books of accounts and other accounting records, which are required by the investigating revenue officer in its examination.

Taxpayers can request for additional time to present or submit the documents required by the investigating officer.

The BIR has three years from the last day for filing a return to issue a deficiency tax assessment. Assessments issued after the three-year period are therefore void, save for some exemptions such as when there is fraud.

As said earlier, a taxpayer generally has to be sent a pre-assessment notice if the BIR finds that deficiency taxes should be assessed. A taxpayer is given 15 days from receipt to respond.

If the taxpayer fails to respond to the notice within the period, the assessment division will issue a formal letter of demand and assessment notice.

Like the pre-assessment notice, the assessment notice and formal letter of demand must state the facts and the law on which the assessment is based. Otherwise, it will be considered void and of no effect.

The taxpayer has 30 days from receipt within which to file an administrative protest against the assessment.

Revenue Regulations No. 12-99 requires that the undisputed items of an assessment have to be paid before it takes action on the disputed portions of the assessment.

The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and Obligations enumerates several formal requisites for a valid protest, which were taken from the provisions of Revenue Regulations No 12-85.

A protest must contain:

a.) Name of the taxpayer and address for the immediate past three taxable years.

b.) Nature of request whether reinvestigation or reconsideration specifying newly discovered evidence he intends to present if it is a request for a reinvestigation.

c.) The taxable periods covered.

d.) Assessment number.

e.) Date of receipt of assessment notice or letter of demand.

f.) Itemized statement of the findings to which the taxpayer agrees as a basis for computing the tax due, which amount should be paid immediately upon the filing of the protest.

g.) The itemized schedule of the adjustments with which the taxpayer does not agree.

h.) A statement of the facts and/or law in support of the protest.

The taxpayer is given 60 days from the filing of its protest to submit the documents needed to support its protest. Failure to do so will make the assessment final and the BIR can initiate collection proceedings.

From the time the taxpayer submitted the documents in support of its protest, the BIR is given 180 days to act upon the protest. If the BIR fails to act, the taxpayer may appeal to the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) within 30 days from the end of the 180-day period.

If the BIR denies the protest, the taxpayer may appeal the decision to the CTA within 30 days from its receipt of the decision on the protest.

Remedies of the bureau

This part of the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights and Obligations discusses the actions available to the BIR if taxpayers are uncooperative during the examination and if they do not contest deficiency tax assessments.

During examination, the BIR can compel taxpayers to submit their accounting records pursuant to a valid LA by the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum. This is resorted to if taxpayers refuse to comply with two written requests for the presentation of its accounting records. If taxpayers still refuse to comply with the subpoena duces tecum, the BIR can file criminal cases against them for violation of Section 266 of the National Internal Revenue Code. Under the said provision, such violation is punishable by a fine of not less than P5,000 but not more than P10,000 and imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than two years.

The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights and Obligations also provides that taxpayers who refuse to comply with the subpoena duces tecum can be cited for contempt under Section 3(f) of Rule 71 of the Rules of Court.

The Taxpayers' Bill of Rights and Obligations enumerates the actions available to the BIR to enforce collection of delinquent tax assessments, which have already become final, due and demandable and these are:

1. Distraint of personal property;
2. Levy of real property;
3. Civil action; and,
4. Criminal action.

The BIR's right to use the foregoing methods is limited to five years from the issuance of the assessment in the case of false or fraudulent returns with the intent to evade tax or the failure to file a return.

For cases covered by a Waiver of the Statute of Limitations the BIR can seek the collection within the period agreed upon.

For cases covered by the regular 3-year prescriptive period, the BIR has three years from the last day for the payment of the tax or the actual date of its payment, whichever is later, to seek the collection of the same.

It is important to note that the above-mentioned periods for the BIR to collect delinquent taxes shall be suspended when the CIR is prohibited from making the assessment or beginning distraint or levy or a proceeding in court and 60 days thereafter, under the following instances:

a.) When the taxpayer requests for a reinvestigation which is granted by the CIR;

b.) When the taxpayer cannot be located in the address given by him in the return filed upon which a tax is being assessed or collected;

c.) When the warrant of distraint or levy is duly served upon a taxpayer, his authorized representative, or a member of his household with sufficient discretion, and no property can be located; and,

d.) When the taxpayer is out of the Philippines.

The above discussion of rights available to the taxpayer are guaranteed not only by the National Internal Revenue Code and its implementing regulations and related issuances by the BIR but most importantly, these rights are guaranteed by the constitutional right to due process.

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The best things in life are Libre

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6 Things You Have to Know About the Libre False Cover

PANAHON NGAYON
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Libre False Cover makes your ad appear as the cover of Inquirer Libre.

With bigger space and distinctive execution, your advertising message gets the full attention it truly deserves.

It is the first thing that gets noticed by 600,000 LRT and MRT commuters.

You get more positive feedback because Libre is free and passed on to thousands of non-commuters.

With Libre False Cover, make big news, grab more attention, get better results.

Reserve your space now and be our front page tomorrow. Call Izelle or Jenny at 897-8808.

Libre
we've captured your market.

Truth plus relevance equal higher sales

From page B2-1

vertisements are written when the creative people do it with one person in mind," he says.

By drawing a mental picture of that one representative person, the creative person can then find that elusive connection that tells good ads from the mediocre ads.

An ad agency has a number of tools at its disposal that it can use to hone its people's ability to spot these relationships or connections such as quantitative and qualitative consumer research.

Poole, however, cautions against relying heavily on research because these are usually records of past behavior and may stifle the advertising agency's enthusiasm to try something that has not been done before.

"Most of these research takes people to the same place which is why if you look at the market today, you will see that many ads look the same," Poole says.

He, however, also says that there is also a danger of advertising agencies churning out creative ads for creativity's sake, losing out on the objective of propping up sales.

"There is a reason why advertisements are part of commercial communication and not art, although there is certainly a lot of art about it," Poole says.

Print ads, for instance, have to be visually arresting because people reading through magazines have only between three and eight seconds to look at the ad. The same goes for television commercials that last for an average of 30 seconds.

"Ads move away from copy because copy does not travel well because many of the good advertisements are culturally specific," he says.

The American audience, for instance, seems to prefer ads that are hard sell and direct to the point.

"It is pretty much in-your-face advertising, which says buy me because I am bigger and better," Poole says.

Effective ads for British consumers, on the other hand, tell little stories. Brazil is also turning out to be a creative powerhouse, and its ads stand out because of their sensual nature and their use of humor and fun to carry their messages. Asia, particularly Thailand, is also becoming a creative center.

Asia, but not RP . . .

From page B2-1

& Mather was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

After winning a record-breaking three Clio Silvers last year, the Philippines was shut out of the medal race. The only Philippine ads which made it to the Clio Finals this year were TBWA-Santiago, Mangada and Puno's radio campaign for Philippine General Hospital's Ward 9-11. It was also the Creative Guild's 2003 Diwa Radio Ad of the Year. Ogilvy & Mather's "Cone" for Ford Philippines and a billboard campaign it created for The Economist were the other two Philippine Clio finalists.

Flour firm . . .

From page B2-4

dominated countries in Southeast Asia. Although Bontigao says it is too early to give statistics of sales after the 'halal' certifications were issued to Pilmico products, "based on feedback from [our] Mindanao salesmen, Muslim customers welcome the development and [this] could strengthen loyalty [to our products] among Muslim customers."

There are about 1.4 billion Muslims all over the world and the 'halal' certification means much to them.

Estimates of the buying power of Muslim consumers in the USA alone is about $12 B and world halal trade is about $150 B annually according to the website, http://www.eathalal.com.

Consumer should also look out for updated listings of these 'halal' foods especially when dining in fast food restaurants and when buying dairy products, cakes, cookies, French fries, soups, sauces, etc. and meat products.

Muslims are allowed meat products like chicken when it is verified that proper rituals or "Zabidah" (slaughtered according to Islamic rites) have been observed in their mechanical slaughter and as long as these products have been acquired through lawful or honest means.

"Zabidah" is a procedure where the animal is slaughtered by a Muslim or Jew or Christian by holding or putting the animal on the ground, its throat slit with a sharp knife making sure that the three main blood vessels are cut. While cutting, without severing the throat of the animal, the name of Allah or a blessing such as "Bismillah," or "Allahu-Akbar" (God is Great) is recited.

Perhaps, in keeping with our times, a group of Ulama in England in the early 1970s upheld the mechanized killing of animals in factories for corned beef and poultry provided a bladed, mechanical belt is added inscribed with the blessing, "Bismillah Allah-u-Akbar" (God is Great) or praises such as "In the Name of Allah" and "Allah is Greatest." But this practice was unacceptable to Malay Muslims according to Maulana.

PILMICO baking students preparing for a layer cake.

Four women . . .

From page B2-4

beans are prepared for packaging.

Through the help of personnel from the marketing department of a multinational company in Bulacan, Paulino, who also chairs the SKDRTC, Dantis and other TCGFA members designed the DRT coffee's packaging.

Each foil pack carries the brand "Bulacan Brew Organic Coffee."

A pack of 350 grams is sold for P99, while the smaller pack, at 75 grams, is sold for P30.

Nestle's help

Nestlé Philippines, a vital partner in the town's coffee industry, buys locally grown coffee beans for P39 to P47 a kilogram.

Dantis says Nestlé has its own modern roasting machine and buys only coffee beans from local growers.

Paulino attributes the success of the local coffee industry partly to Nestlé, which provided technological assistance to farmers in eliminating plantation pests.

Paulino says Nestlé's trust and interest in DRT's coffee beans increased the income of farmers because they could directly sell their produce to the firm.

Before, coffee growers sold their harvests to traders in Cavite and Batangas, where Nestle sourced its coffee beans.

"The TCGFA and the SKDRTC now buy their produce and we sell this to Nestle," Paulino says.

She says the local coffee beans delivered to Nestlé's plant in Pañañaque City late last year reached 14.5 tons and fetched more than P500,000.

They also supply coffee beans to other restaurants and coffee shops in Metro Manila and Central Luzon.

Four women

Paulino also attributes the success of the local coffee industry to four women.

She says President Macapagal-Arroyo donated the P5-million initial fund for the TCGFA and SKDRTC which they used to buying seedlings and de-hulling machine.

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz was instrumental in talking to Nestlé officials to tap Bulacan coffee growers as one of the firm's suppliers.

The provincial government allotted funds to build the warehouse and processing area in Barangay Talbak and supported the training of local coffee growers.

Paulino credits Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio for asking the president to allot and release the P5-million fund for Bulacan coffee growers.

The [illegible] the women of DRT, who are running the SKDRTC, [illegible] be given credit for the success of the homegrown industry.

Ace Saatchi wins Print Ad of the Year

THE CREATIVE Guild of the Philippines, a prestigious award giving body of the advertising industry, recently awarded two major awards to Ace Saatchi & Saatchi. These were the Print Ad of the Year for the biggest Communications Company Smart Telecommunications ("Lent") and the DIWA Public Service Print Ad of the Year for the Catholic Charity Caritas Manila ("Stigmata").

The wins were Ace Saatchi's comeback to an award winning status after last year's weak showing, producing only two finalists in last year's Creative Guild. After resolving internal issues putting in hard work, it was able to jump back with 12 finalists. This tied them with BBDO/Guerrero Ortega being the agency with the most number of finalists this year.

"Just when we thought we couldn't make it, the Saatchi mantra 'Nothing is impossible' somehow inspired us all to do good work—while of course, having fun." Merlee Cruz-Jayme Ace Saatchi's Executive Creative Director said.

Other wins for Ace Saatchi were Best Copy for the winning print ad Smart "Lent" and 2nd runner-up certificate for Music One's TV commercial against music piracy "Paparazzi".

Credits: Smart Telecommunications "Lent" Creative Director Cirio Cinco, Copywriter Merlee Jayme, Art Director Dean Gutierrez; Caritas Manila "Stigmata" Exec. Creative Director Merlee Cruz-Jayme, Creative Director Eugene Demata, Copywriter Badong Abesamis, Art Director Carl Urgino; Music One "Paparazzi" Exec. Creative Director Melvin Mangada,Creative Director Merlee Cruz-Jayme, Copywriter Daffy Jonson, Art Director Billy Samson.

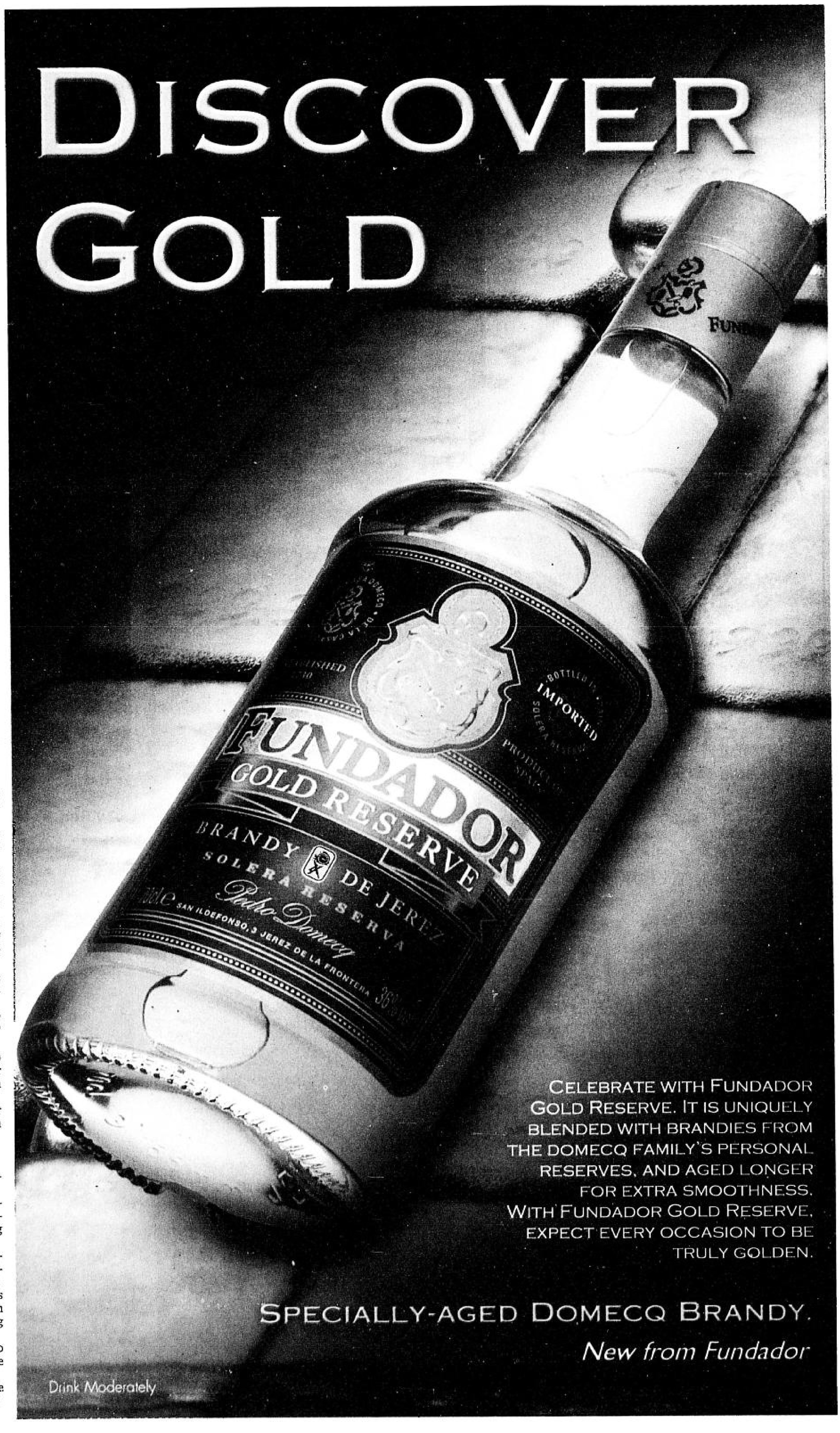
. . . as Lowe wins Best in TV category

LOWE Inc., the Philippines 2nd largest advertising agency dominated the much-coveted Best in TV category at the 2002 Creative Guild Awards, running away with two of the category's top three awards: First Runner-up for its Fita Crackers "Bestfriend" TV ad and Second Runner-up for its . Kitkat "Shadows" TV ad.

"This victory is particularly sweet because it simply proves what we believe in at Lowe—that creativity pays," said Raul Castro, VP-Executive Creative Director. "It's wonderful to be honoured by our peers for the very same ads that have significantly built our clients' businesses," adds Mariles Gustilo, President and CEO. The "Bestfriend" TVC helped grow the Fita Crackers' business by 60 percent while the "Shadows" ad helped grow the Kitkat business by 12 percent in a category that has become stagnant.

Credit goes to Lowe's Raul Castro, Ricky Aragon, Bryan Siy, Mary Velmonte, Nelson Naungayan, Mila Marquez, Tynna Antonio, Aubrey Allarde, Nonon del Carmen, Noel Bermejo, Ernie Mallari and Peachy Tamayo.

Lowe Manila is the communications company that used to be known as Lowe Lintas. It is part of the Lowe and Partners Worldwide network which ranks 4th among worldwide agency groups.



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BUSINESS Friday

Four women and coffee beans create economics in Bulacan

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DONA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD, Bulacan—Residents and officials of this mountain town, 30 km east of the capital Malolos City, are pinning their hopes of economic uplift to the town's homegrown coffee.

With more than 200 hectares devoted to coffee growing, this town has already marketed more than 100 tons of coffee beans and brewed coffee worth about P4 million to companies and consumers in and out the province.

Planted extensively in 1997 and 1998 during the term of the late Mayor Esteban Paulino, the 200 hectares covering portions of Barangays Talbak, Camachin, Kabayunan, Kalawakan, Sapang Bulak and Camachile now host 350,000 coffee trees.

Migrant coffee farmers from Cavite and Batangas started planting coffee trees here as early as 1973 when Dona Remedios Trinidad was still part of Angat, Norzagaray, San Ildefonso and San Miguel towns.

This town, which lies at the foothills of the Sierra Madre in the tri-boundaries of Quezon, Rizal and Nueva Ecija, was proclaimed a separate municipality in 1977 and was named after the late mother of Imelda R. Marcos.

Hopes of improving the coffee industry were dashed in December 2000 when Paulino, who was among the active supporters of the industry, was murdered.

His widow, Evelyn, ran for mayor in May 2001 and won.

She took the responsibility of enhancing the gains of the local coffee industry.

Creation of a cooperative

Paulino initiated the creation of the Talbak Coffee Growers and Farmers Association (TCGFA) and the Samahan ng Kababaihan ng DRT Cooperative (SKDRTC), which concentrated on providing technical and financial assistance to coffee growers and traders.

Nora Bolinas, municipal agricultural technician and one of the SKDRTC leaders, says local coffee growers made their first harvest during the last quarter of 2000 up to the first quarter of 2001, three years after the trees were planted.

She says the robusta type is usually harvested from November to January while the barako or liberica is harvested from March to May.

Bolinas says the "natural jackfruit-aroma" of the town's coffee fruits makes it distinct among those grown in other parts of the country.

She says farmers' houses here have solar dryers where they dry the fruits for at least seven to 10 days before processing.

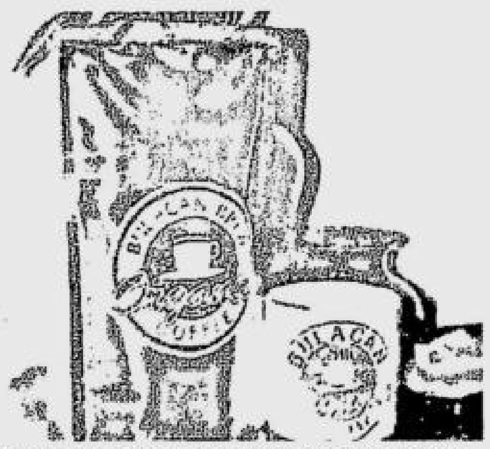
"We determine the quality of coffee based on its grade. If the fruits' moisture level is higher or lower than the 14 to 15 levels, that's not good because it would fetch a lower price in the market. So we make sure that we attain this level when we dry our fruits," says Felix Dantis, TCGFA president.

Local farmers sell the fruits to the TCGFA and SKDRTC at P120 to P130 per pail.

The fruits are then taken to a warehouse in Barangay Talbak for the hulling process, milling and roasting.

After two hours of roasting, the coffee

FOUR/ B2-3



A GROUP designed the the packaging of the coffee which carries the brand "Bulacan Brew Organic Coffee."

Flour firm goes 'halal,' taps Muslim market

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau

PETER Tenido, quality assurance manager of Pilmico, pours mixture into spiral mixer.

ILIGAN City—To be sensitive to the religious requirements of a growing Muslim population and to open a wider market, the Iligan City-based Pilmico-Mauri Corp. (Pilmico), Mindanao's biggest, and the country's most modern flour manufacturing company has gone 'halal.'

Pilmico products now carry the Arabic word, which means lawful. The Holy Koran commands Muslims to eat things that are 'halal.'

It is with this view in mind that Pilmico requested for, and received, 'halal' certifications from the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines (IDCP) last Feb. 3.

IDCP president, Abdul Rahman Linzag, says in an e-mail reply, that the IDCP is a federation of 92 Muslim organizations throughout the country registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

It is the only Philippine Muslim organization to become a member of the World Halal Food Council, Linzag says.

Since 1991, the IDCP has issued halal certifications to over 20 of the country's food, pharmaceuticals, sugar, flour and corn companies.

Linzag emphasized that a non-Islamic government such as the Philippines cannot issue a halal certification. Since a halal certification is a religious command, the certifying body must be a "credible and respected Muslim organization."

Linzag reveals that after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order no. 46 designating the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) under the Office of the President to issue halal certifications, the IDCP filed an injunction case against the OMA.

The IDCP issues 'halal' certificates "on a voluntary basis" Linzag says. Its guidelines for a halal certification are standard for all Muslims to follow in the "making, preparing, producing, processing, re-packing, transporting and distribution of their products to consumers and users."

Buen Bontigao, Pilmico Marketing Manager says Pilmico requested for the certification and followed certain requirements for its products to be declared 'halal.'

After submitting copies of Pilmico's business permit and license, Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) registration, production charts and a list of ingredients with no traces of pork or its by-products and alcohol, about 200 grams each of Pilmico products were submitted to the IDCP for laboratory examination at a fee of P10,000 per product. Because the IDCP has no laboratory of its own, Linzag says product samples are sent to three "credible and qualified laboratories" in Manila, Australia and Malaysia.

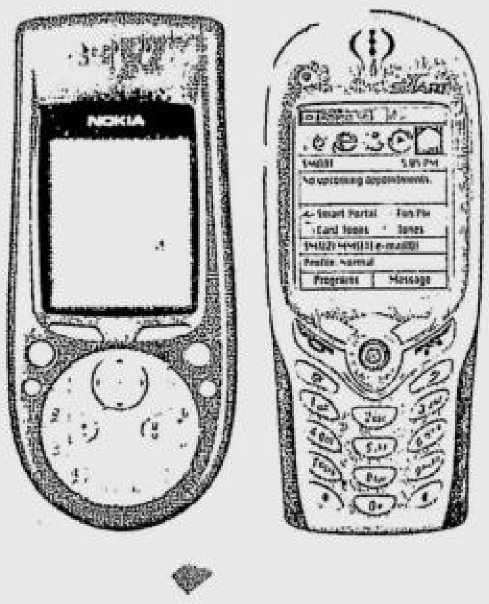
A plant inspection by three IDCP representatives was conducted next for a fee of P20,000.

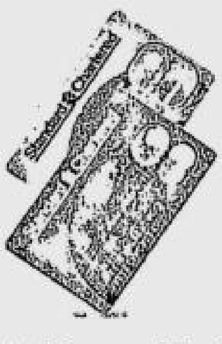
"A yearly certification per product costs P4,000 each, renewable every year, " Bontigao says.

Among Pilmico's certified 'halal' products are all of its hard, soft and cake flour products carrying the brands, Sun-Moon-Star, Sunshine, Glowing Sun, Kutitap, Gold Star, Megastar, Wooden Spoon and the active and instant dry yeast products both carrying the label, Diamond.

Pilmico has not only captured about 30 percent of the market in Mindanao, it also exports its yeast products to Taiwan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. In the future, Pilmico plans to export its 'halal' certified flour products to Muslim-

FLOUR/ B2-3





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BANKING Quarterly

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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Local lenders face hostile environment

By Clarissa S. Batino

AFTER two major laws benefitting the financial sector were passed in the first quarter of 2002, many thought the banking industry would be better equipped in confronting the challenges on the road to its full recovery.

But the external environment was too uncooperative as 2003 set in. The United States waged war on Iraq, and a deadly pneumonia virus broke out in the region. Local lenders were also confronted with tighter monetary policies after the peso fell to a record closing low of 55.099 to $1 on March 12.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas felt the volatile peso had threatened the government's inflation target and so raised banks' reserve requirement by a point to 17 percent and scrapped the tiering system that pays a decreasing rate on banks' deposits with the BSP.

As a result, local interest rates, as reflected by the benchmark treasury bill yield, rose in March and April.

It did not help that the government started imposing the 10-percent value-added tax on financial transactions following a regulation issued by the Bureau Internal Revenue in late March. Banks, for a time, factored in the tax in their bids for treasuries.

The new revenue policy required banks to shift from the 5-percent final gross receipts tax to the 10-percent VAT in January, as soon as the six-year exemption provided by the law ended in 2002.

Despite the seemingly long warning given to financial institutions before the creditable tax was finally imposed, banks still reeled from the VAT when it was implemented.

The VAT, as one banker put it, seemed to negate the positive impact of the landmark policies approved by Congress in the first quarter. A pass-on tax, the VAT would make any bank transaction, particularly loans, more expensive.

A P1-million loan, for instance, would have to pay a P100,000 VAT. For businesses and individuals classified as VAT taxpayers, this could be used as a tax credit, but for end-users who would use the money to buy a house or a car, the costs have indeed become prohibitive due to the pass-on tax.

Monetary authorities like BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. had urged the government to reconsider imposing the VAT because of its adverse impact on lending as borrowers would have to contend with a new tax.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he preferred the 5-percent GRT against the VAT but left it to Congress to legislate the shift back to gross receipts tax.

For their part, lawmakers did not exactly sleep on their jobs in the first quarter. The passage of the law on Special Purpose Asset Vehicle in January and the amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act in March were reforms that were badly needed by the financial sector.

LOCAL LENDERS/ BQ-3

Banks say T-bills still the safest investment option

CHOOSING the right kind of investments is essential, especially for people who just want to earn a little bit more from their hard-earned money for the rainy days.

With the volatility of the economic climate, it is crucial that investors choose the kind of investments that suit their specific needs to make sure they get their desired results.

The Inquirer's Michelle Remo interviewed six bankers and asked what possible investment options they could recommend for clients who have P100,000 to P500,000 as capital and here's what they said:

Ruben Santos
vice president for treasury
Export Industry Bank

"THE SITUATION right now, characterized by political uncertainties brought about by the forthcoming elections and the huge budget deficit, may push interest rates upward. So if one has the money, say P100,000, I would advise him or her not to go for long-term placements.

"The safest, I believe, would be to invest in short-term treasury placements, such as the 91-day or the one-year T-bill. The rate is about 6.5 percent for the 91-day T-bill and about 8.2 percent for the one-year note .

"It is advisable to invest in T-bills because they are safe and they have better yields compared with other instruments.

"Aside from T-bills, investors may also benefit from investing in Export Industry Bank's trust products, such as the expert fund. For a minimum of P10,000 in investment, the corresponding yield is 6.3 percent net, within an average of 30 days."

Bienvenido M. Juat Jr.
external vice president-treasurer
Equitable-PCI Bank

"INVESTORS who are seeking outlets for their investible funds have many alternatives available. There is no single solution since each investor may have his or her own investment objectives.

"A lot of factors must be taken into consideration, but the investor may concentrate on the few major market-moving developments that have the most impact on market rates (i.e. interest rates) such as fiscal and monetary policies, economic projections and global developments.

"In the case of Equitable PCI Bank (EPCIB), there is a wide array of multi-currency products that address the various needs of investors—both short-term and long-term.

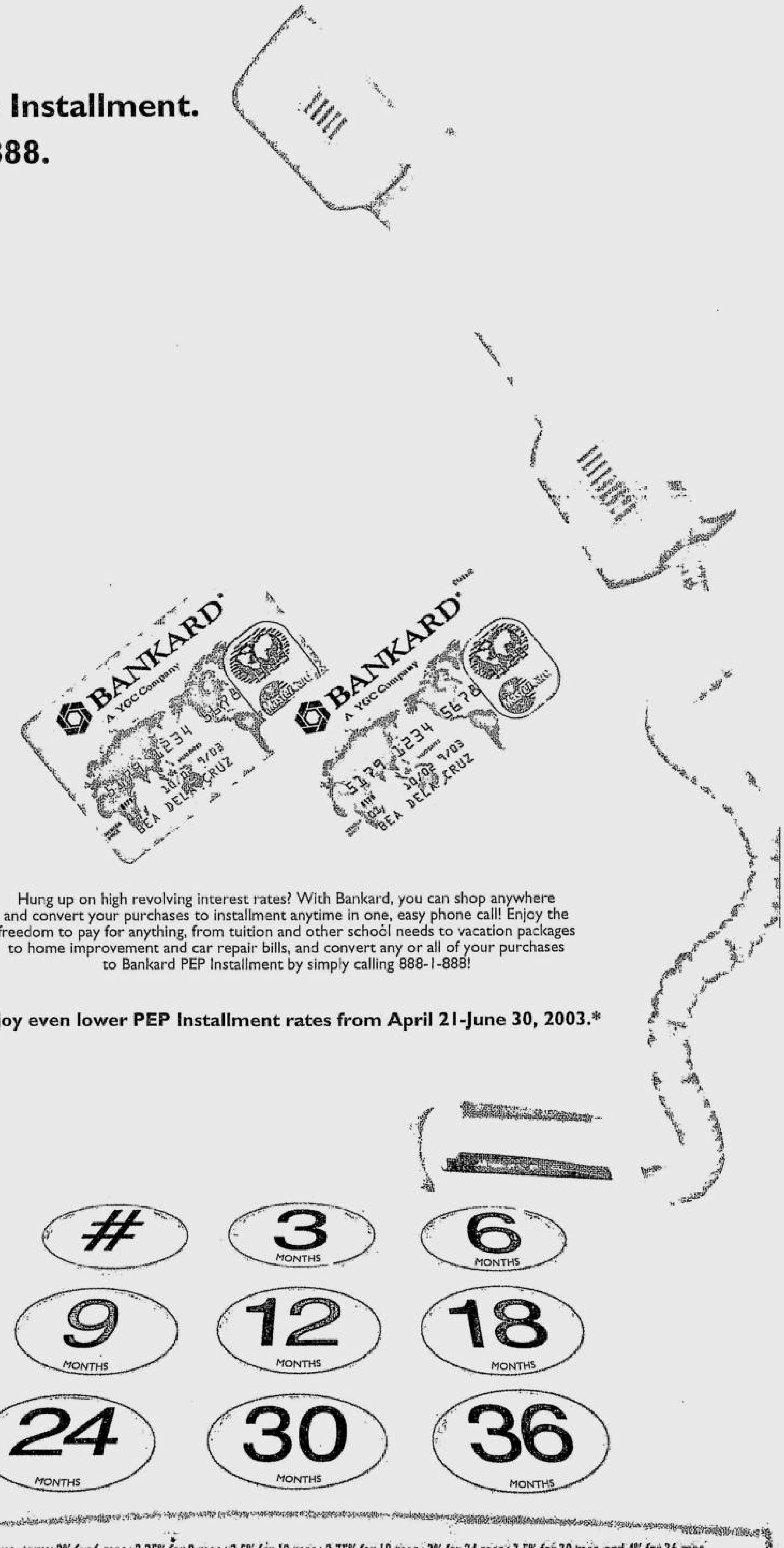
"For those who want liquidity anytime, we have savings account products, like the Fast Teller Visa Electron. It's a savings account with ATM and debit card features. It can be used both locally and abroad where there is a Visa Plus network. You earn interest and may withdraw anytime you wish to.

"The EPCIB Trust Banking Group has a Prime Life Investment (PLI) that is a short- to medium-term, high yielding, diversified and liquid investment that has a hospital cash care benefit and free credit card (minimum of P1 million).

"For those who prefer long-term investments, EPCIB has the Money Max Deposit, which is a five-year peso deposit whose yields are exempt from the 20-percent withholding tax and are based on the short-term T-bill rate that are re-priced every quarter. For US dollar investments, the bank has the Maxihedge, which is a high-yielding, highly rated and longer-term investment.

"Epic Ivory is a long-term, high-yielding, and wealth-building investment that is available for a minimum P100,000 and for a five-year term. It is also tax-exempt and allows clients to add a minimum of P5,000 on his investment every quarter for a period of two years. The funds invested in Epic Ivory is managed by the bank's trust group.

BANKS/ BQ-3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Note: Billed Monthly Installment Amounts form part of your total outstanding balance and become subject to regular revolving rates if outstanding balance is not paid in full.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0935 Series of 2003

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BANKINGQuarterly

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2003

Total Assets of Commercial Banks

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

Ranking Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Commercial Banks	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	% Change	Q1 '02	% Change
1	1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	439,001,119,268	433,809,690,978	1.2%	380,024,700,378	15.5%
2	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	338,511,191,194	332,362,312,115	1.9%	327,894,644,882	3.2%
3	3	Equitable PCI Bank	262,843,959,898	260,939,264,367	0.7%	244,890,161,776	7.3%
4	4	Land Bank of the Philippines	246,849,282,230	248,485,097,457	-0.7%	235,233,559,226	4.9%
5	5	Citibank	222,524,463,864	216,911,477,265	2.6%	276,633,986,154	-19.6%
6	6	Philippine National Bank	192,730,150,975	185,511,339,226	3.9%	184,697,780,792	4.3%
7	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	156,058,371,424	156,236,882,687	-0.1%	147,471,023,379	5.8%
8	8	Development Bank of the Philippines	149,746,826,572	151,003,817,077	-0.8%	148,370,083,682	0.9%
9	9	Banco de Oro	127,376,084,533	119,985,888,430	6.2%	80,246,777,343	58.7%
10	11	Allied Banking Corporation	109,487,920,449	103,889,994,934	5.4%	95,462,291,019	14.7%
11	10	China Banking Corp.	104,576,050,332	106,319,021,134	-1.6%	85,184,383,484	22.8%
12	12	United Coconut Planters Bank	95,946,153,101	98,636,161,624	-2.7%	100,303,828,831	-4.3%
13	13	HSBC	70,471,931,604	75,202,911,355	-6.3%	76,081,164,920	-7.4%
14	14	Union Bank of the Philippines	69,819,138,366	73,309,878,587	-4.8%	53,850,785,532	29.7%
15	15	Security Bank Corp.	62,439,734,592	63,810,558,623	-2.1%	62,577,402,154	-0.2%
16	17	Philippine Bank of Communications	47,662,094,253	46,650,673,116	2.2%	40,934,595,959	16.4%
17	16	Prudential Bank	47,546,474,264	48,070,935,218	-1.1%	45,866,313,558	3.7%
18	20	Bank of Commerce	40,587,694,500	38,385,615,572	5.7%	21,349,728,703	90.1%
19	19	Int'l Exchange Bank	38,506,710,836	39,259,371,127	-1.9%	35,268,234,746	9.2%
20	18	Standard Chartered Bank	35,245,902,664	40,008,714,605	-11.9%	38,791,626,434	-9.1%
21	21	Philippine Trust Co.	33,685,137,373	33,438,878,912	0.7%	31,754,861,395	6.1%
22	22	Export and Industry Bank	25,281,253,952	26,146,607,635	-3.3%	26,874,721,292	-5.9%
23	23	Int'l Commercial Bank of China	23,368,105,241	22,540,188,317	3.7%	20,044,806,947	16.6%
24	25	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	21,807,406,183	20,193,700,375	8.0%	22,220,107,187	-1.9%
25	26	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	17,908,180,467	16,249,980,998	10.2%	15,534,644,942	15.3%
26	24	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	17,080,594,509	22,138,051,505	-22.8%	20,935,500,036	-18.4%
27	30	Asia United Bank	14,987,168,819	14,542,416,381	3.1%	12,053,528,180	24.3%
28	29	East West Bank	14,914,335,536	14,984,543,312	-0.5%	13,540,702,840	10.1%
29	27	United Overseas Bank	14,666,107,579	15,367,352,934	-4.6%	15,726,219,199	-6.7%
30	28	ING Barings	13,663,283,846	15,081,898,815	-9.4%	15,491,743,418	-11.8%
31	31	Philippine Veterans Bank	13,129,925,902	13,920,743,827	-5.7%	13,389,324,044	-1.9%
32	33	Maybank Phils. Inc.	12,193,953,551	11,280,127,693	8.1%	10,242,756,717	19.0%
33	32	Mizuho Corporate Bank	11,949,533,589	12,367,679,626	-3.4%	12,854,891,313	-7.0%
34	34	JP Morgan Chase Bank	10,315,932,420	10,868,864,805	-5.1%	10,369,641,693	-0.5%
35	35	ABN-AMRO Bank	10,162,127,512	10,407,839,862	-2.4%	12,312,891,437	-17.5%
36	36	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	9,861,709,044	10,018,035,464	-1.6%	10,615,109,653	-7.1%
37	37	Bank of America[b]	6,728,492,210	8,365,857,316	-19.6%	8,276,894,459	-18.7%
38	38	Korea Exchange Bank	6,713,297,344	6,296,443,925	6.6%	6,113,392,250	9.8%
39	39	"Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]"	5,569,060,576	6,200,622,532	-10.2%	6,783,763,228	-17.9%
40	40	Bangkok Bank	3,233,047,527	4,274,066,706	-24.4%	3,718,691,620	-13.1%
41	41	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	100,991,959	96,363,642	4.8%	101,260,393	-0.3%
		Global Bank[d]	54,973,685,904				
		GRAND TOTAL Php	3,145,250,900,059	3,133,569,870,079	0.4%	3,025,062,211,097	4.0%

Real & Other Properties Owned or Acquired by Commercial Banks

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

Ranking Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Commercial Banks	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	% Change	Q1 '02	% Change
1	1	Philippine National Bank	27,099,357,397	26,885,367,702	0.8%	25,109,032,388	7.9%
2	2	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	25,874,663,195	25,169,738,366	2.8%	24,555,365,131	5.4%
3	3	United Coconut Planters Bank	21,753,540,867	19,971,616,206	8.9%	20,557,195,941	5.8%
4	4	Land Bank of the Philippines	13,941,280,718	13,470,322,119	3.5%	11,404,833,413	22.2%
5	5	Equitable PCI Bank	13,201,561,263	12,393,979,705	6.5%	9,868,351,276	33.8%
6	6	Bank of the Philippines Islands	10,066,119,211	9,861,400,267	2.1%	9,062,365,764	11.1%
7	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	6,994,944,735	6,878,697,994	1.7%	6,798,502,178	2.9%
8	8	Philippine Bank of Communications	6,529,423,507	6,331,148,115	3.1%	5,001,724,436	30.5%
9	9	Union Bank of the Philippines	6,095,979,928	5,753,943,689	5.9%	5,514,791,486	10.5%
10	10	Banco de Oro	5,340,110,826	5,429,738,253	-1.7%	4,431,417,626	20.5%
11	11	Allied Bank	5,295,007,374	5,420,622,084	-2.3%	5,165,233,201	2.5%
12	12	China Banking Corp.	4,262,958,915	4,448,448,529	-4.2%	4,312,522,864	-1.1%
13	14	Prudential Bank	4,186,310,352	3,737,575,690	12.0%	3,565,187,288	17.4%
14	13	Export and Industry Bank	4,110,356,281	3,995,076,574	2.9%	923,927,804	344.9%
15	15	Security Bank	3,848,188,290	3,622,759,050	6.2%	3,505,611,139	9.8%
16	16	Development Bank of the Philippines	3,665,922,150	3,584,224,732	2.3%	3,017,109,397	21.5%
17	17	International Exchange Bank	2,949,161,467	3,186,914,664	-7.5%	2,099,587,437	40.5%
18	18	Bank of Commerce	2,908,287,448	2,144,803,871	35.6%	1,518,595,788	91.5%
19	21	Philippine Trust Co.	2,522,874,912	486,173,979	418.9%	411,902,791	512.5%
20	19	Philippine Veterans Bank	1,779,340,449	1,697,359,250	4.8%	1,362,416,978	30.6%
21	20	East West Bank	568,606,026	560,582,922	1.4%	554,974,248	2.5%
22	23	Maybank Phils. Inc.	414,033,296	380,169,309	8.9%	282,444,899	46.6%
23	22	Citibank	400,406,043	400,740,984	-0.1%	382,914,651	4.6%
24	24	United Overseas Bank	296,459,456	327,166,896	-9.4%	63,065,990	370.1%
25	25	HSBC	151,105,219	143,139,541	5.6%	77,507,727	95.0%
26	26	Standard Chartered Bank	115,154,004	100,973,101	14.0%	125,938,458	-8.6%
27	27	JP Morgan Chase Bank	85,000,000	85,000,000	0.0%	85,000,000	0.0%
28	28	International Commercial Bank of China	49,052,183	49,052,183	0.0%	55,928,933	-12.3%
29	30	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	39,790,226	39,824,663	-0.1%	40,188,313	-1.0%
30	29	ABN-Amro Bank	25,850,668	40,173,516	-35.7%	35,952,274	-28.1%
31	31	Banco Santander[a]	17,176,250	17,176,250	0.0%	66,742,000	-74.3%
32	32	Asia United Bank	10,155,219	10,155,219	0.0%	907,219	1019.4%
33	33	Bangkok Bank	5,097,600	5,097,600	0.0%	35,877	14108.5%
	-	ING Barings	-	-		1,590,844	-100.0%
		Global Bank[d]				3,258,829,573	-100.0%
		GRAND TOTAL Php	174,603,275,475	166,629,163,023	4.8%	153,217,695,332	14.0%

Return on Equity

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

Ranking Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Commercial Banks	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Q1 '02
1	40	ABN-AMRO Bank	24.72%	-66.43%	-0.86%
2	10	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	23.18%	13.02%	26.23%
3	4	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	22.04%	20.68%	15.86%
4	2	Citibank	20.92%	25.66%	17.41%
5	5	HSBC	19.33%	19.97%	32.63%
6	3	China Banking Corp.	18.34%	22.49%	8.30%
7	9	ING Barings	13.31%	13.46%	12.99%
8	13	Union Bank of the Philippines	11.32%	11.50%	8.50%
9	6	Asia United Bank	10.61%	16.43%	12.16%
10	14	Bank of the Philippine Islands	10.43%	10.56%	10.76%
11	15	Development Bank of the Philippines	9.91%	10.32%	10.96%
12	8	International Exchange Bank	9.58%	14.16%	8.74%
13	11	Export and Industry Bank	9.40%	12.98%	1.05%
14	17	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	9.33%	8.68%	5.87%
15	12	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	9.32%	11.68%	2.82%
16	19	Korea Exchange Bank	8.57%	7.94%	0.29%
17	1	JP Morgan Chase Bank	8.55%	30.28%	30.97%
18	20	Allied Banking Corporation	8.50%	7.73%	7.00%
19	18	Banco de Oro	8.34%	8.36%	5.55%
20	23	Land Bank of the Philippines	8.26%	7.03%	8.32%
21	25	Security Bank Corp.	6.45%	5.76%	5.81%
22	21	Philippine Bank of Communications	6.33%	7.54%	5.08%
23	22	Philippine Trust Co.	5.25%	7.25%	1.07%
24	29	Prudential Bank	4.96%	4.49%	1.16%
25	26	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.d	3.68%	5.55%	4.93%
26	30	"Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]"	3.45%	3.15%	3.05%
27	16	Bank of Commerce	3.45%	9.80%	0.00%
28	27	Philippine Veterans Bank	3.20%	5.48%	4.35%
29	28	East West Bank	2.14%	4.82%	2.32%
30	32	Equitable PCI Bank	1.91%	1.85%	0.27%
31	24	Standard Chartered Bank	1.90%	6.15%	1.21%
32	33	Mizuho Corporate Bank	1.84%	1.48%	3.00%
33	35	Philippine National Bank	1.00%	-11.00%	-27.00%
34	7	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	-	14.90%	25.28%
35	31	Bangkok Bank	-2.13%	2.95%	0.65%
36	34	Maybank Phils. Inc.	-9.48%	-10.32%	-10.42%
37	37	Bank of America[b]	-13.51%	-32.37%	-29.11%
38	36	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	-17.69%	-18.16%	-24.79%
39	38	International Commercial Bank of China	-35.04%	-33.10%	-10.23%
40	39	United Overseas Bank	-69.15%	-46.99%	-49.59%
41	41	United Coconut Planters Bank	-77.87%	-68.78%	-46.42%
42	42	Global Bank[d]		0.07%	

Loans, Discounts & Advances of Commercial Banks

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

Ranking Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Commercial Banks	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	% Change	Q1 '02	% Change
1	1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	191,386,843,423	195,351,058,246	-2.0%	151,055,591,843	26.7%
2	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	146,497,822,633	144,229,751,040	1.6%	131,382,669,322	11.5%
3	3	Equitable PCI Bank	109,535,937,129	112,228,367,820	-2.4%	102,487,268,883	6.9%
4	4	Land Bank of the Philippines	106,279,346,142	95,681,882,595	11.1%	108,286,310,056	-1.9%
5	5	Citibank	82,855,069,135	84,261,167,135	-1.7%	72,777,103,496	13.8%
6	6	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	74,260,847,618	70,851,543,513	4.8%	63,844,609,887	16.3%
7	8	Development Bank of the Philippines	66,497,552,695	63,834,929,866	4.2%	71,009,240,165	-6.4%
8	7	Philippine National Bank	65,059,099,312	65,335,441,361	-0.4%	73,411,520,183	-11.4%
9	9	Banco de Oro	56,993,785,168	52,613,289,365	8.3%	36,521,788,657	56.1%
10	10	Allied Banking Corporation	40,884,370,479	40,555,598,381	0.8%	34,603,325,623	18.2%
11	11	United Coconut Planters Bank	38,218,016,461	39,181,226,576	-2.5%	51,678,996,458	-26.0%
12	13	China Banking Corp.	35,800,627,050	34,827,543,408	2.8%	35,603,477,965	0.6%
13	12	Security Bank Corp.	35,455,921,953	34,937,944,242	1.5%	30,808,443,293	15.1%
14	14	International Exchange Bank	18,576,169,655	18,856,482,341	-1.5%	18,101,739,834	2.6%
15	15	HSBC	18,190,863,643	18,758,560,638	-3.0%	20,657,458,540	-11.9%
16	17	Prudential Bank	17,920,716,554	18,361,813,316	-2.4%	18,475,905,245	-3.0%
17	18	Philippine Bank of Communications	17,574,765,429	17,754,878,613	-1.0%	17,355,687,431	1.3%
18	19	Bank of Commerce	16,700,270,881	16,028,953,203	4.2%	10,638,010,546	57.0%
19	16	Standard Chartered Bank	16,200,996,304	18,552,424,362	-12.7%	20,220,811,845	-19.9%
20	20	Philippine Trust Co.	13,118,336,701	14,926,169,699	-12.1%	15,943,995,540	-17.7%
21	21	Union Bank of the Philippines	12,925,313,354	13,645,383,423	-5.3%	12,989,787,482	-0.5%
22	22	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	10,726,715,269	10,755,912,599	-0.3%	11,030,368,771	-2.8%
23	26	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	10,401,167,381	9,108,946,464	14.2%	8,314,059,279	25.1%
24	28	Asia United Bank	10,105,939,200	8,715,260,276	16.0%	7,539,372,094	34.0%
25	24	International Commercial Bank of China	9,894,757,239	9,642,928,594	2.6%	9,077,581,935	9.0%
26	25	East West Bank	9,520,546,218	9,405,174,819	1.2%	8,326,003,561	14.3%
27	23	Export and Industry Bank	9,384,296,981	10,742,991,140	-12.6%	13,458,881,597	-30.3%
28	29	ING Barings	8,561,088,213	8,204,914,799	4.3%	8,939,285,333	-4.2%
29	32	Maybank Phils. Inc.	6,789,009,173	6,283,453,356	8.0%	5,164,787,572	31.4%
30	31	United Overseas Bank	6,745,006,117	6,877,937,826	-1.9%	6,967,386,772	-3.2%
31	27	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	6,698,099,765	8,749,953,697	-23.4%	5,565,505,341	20.4%
32	30	Mizuho Corporate Bank	6,604,111,988	7,467,933,877	-11.6%	8,431,171,121	-21.7%
33	33	Philippine Veterans Bank	3,936,697,248	4,101,841,809	-4.0%	3,768,289,825	4.5%
34	37	ABN-AMRO Bank	3,291,469,930	1,673,138,976	96.7%	9,161,089,599	-64.1%
35	34	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	2,527,101,850	3,381,648,761	-25.3%	4,125,297,015	-38.7%
36	39	"Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]"	1,736,834,513	1,280,088,353	35.7%	1,900,599,879	-8.6%
37	36	Korea Exchange Bank	1,297,920,950	1,718,092,712	-24.5%	1,871,287,681	-30.6%
38	35	Bangkok Bank	1,110,909,487	1,969,590,733	-43.6%	1,457,884,381	-23.8%
39	38	Bank of America[b]	912,772,636	1,459,642,002	-37.5%	2,383,295,548	-61.7%
40	40	JP Morgan Chase Bank	903,340,942	928,143,936	-2.7%	587,745,056	53.7%
41	41	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	3,089,927	3,032,583	1.9%	3,864,996	-20.1%
		Global Bank[d]				31,183,065,649	
		GRAND TOTAL Php	1,292,083,546,764	1,283,245,036,455	0.7%	1,247,110,565,299	3.6%

Non- Performing Loans of Commercial Banks

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

		Commercial Banks			NPL amount		Total loans	
Q1 '03	Q4 '02		Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Q1 '03	Q4 '02
1	1	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	86.00%	87.00%	7,426,106	7,426,106	8,635,007	8,535,754
2	2	United Overseas Bank	63.96%	58.52%	5,149,656,902	5,124,707,216	8,051,371,016	8,757,189,364
3	3	Philippine National Bank	53.00%	51.00%	48,850,260,359	44,939,000,000	92,170,302,564	88,115,686,275
4	7	Bangkok Bank	43.44%	27.86%	660,096,224	661,231,550	1,519,558,526	2,373,408,293
5	4	United Coconut Planters Bank	40.79%	39.11%	20,747,380,569	20,084,122,297	50,863,889,602	51,352,907,944
6	5	Philippine Veterans Bank	28.78%	28.76%	1,817,105,530	1,791,113,119	6,313,778,768	6,227,792,486
7	6	Philippine Bank of Communications	26.98%	28.57%	6,038,246,083	6,288,197,128	22,380,452,493	22,009,790,437
8	9	Prudential Bank	26.74%	26.16%	5,097,892,793	5,080,374,426	19,064,670,131	19,420,391,537
9	8	Bank of Commerce	21.95%	27.11%	4,418,428,955	4,631,619,797	20,133,185,796	17,083,913,528
10	10	Land Bank of the Philippines	20.45%	21.91%	26,598,489,727	26,719,114,364	130,065,964,435	121,949,403,761
11	11	Export and Industry Bank	19.86%	16.95%	2,641,151,411	2,593,437,758	13,298,848,998	15,300,517,746
12	14	Maybank Phils. Inc.	17.31%	15.63%	1,535,290,964	1,261,108,035	8,869,387,428	8,068,509,501
13	12	Equitable PCI Bank	17.00%	16.50%	25,172,077,820	25,070,008,688	148,071,046,000	151,939,446,594
14	13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	15.05%	16.20%	15,096,122,000	15,476,976,000	100,306,458,472	95,536,888,889
15	15	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	14.98%	15.27%	31,132,639,649	31,460,179,495	207,828,035,040	198,983,871,275
16	16	Allied Banking Corporation	14.62%	15.10%	8,084,611,000	8,166,015,000	55,298,296,854	54,079,569,536
17	20	China Banking Corp.	14.21%	12.85%	7,973,579,199	6,662,020,074	56,112,450,380	51,844,514,195
18	23	Union Bank of the Philippines	13.05%	11.38%	3,368,986,903	3,344,998,408	25,815,991,594	29,393,659,121
19	18	Security Bank Corp.	12.78%	13.18%	5,058,146,886	4,965,436,918	39,578,614,131	37,674,028,209
20	19	East West Bank	12.69%	12.96%	1,263,701,199	1,272,191,758	9,958,244,276	9,816,294,429
21	22	International Exchange Bank	11.66%	12.21%	2,501,284,573	2,587,723,975	21,451,840,249	21,193,480,549
22	29	JP Morgan Chase Bank	11.25%	6.07%	198,528,029	198,528,029	1,764,693,591	3,270,642,982
23	17	Philippine Trust Co.	10.53%	13.49%	1,499,211,461	2,160,739,232	14,237,525,745	16,017,340,492
24	21	Development Bank of the Philippines	10.30%	12.81%	8,870,709,690	11,036,357,421	86,123,395,049	86,154,234,356
25	24	Bank of the Philippine Islands	10.06%	10.00%	15,456,394,460	16,004,442,251	153,642,092,048	160,044,422,510
26	25	International Commercial Bank of China	9.74%	9.05%	1,131,246,412	1,023,416,972	11,614,439,548	11,308,474,829
27	26	Standard Chartered Bank	8.09%	8.15%	1,956,661,286	2,018,211,342	24,186,171,644	24,763,329,350
28	28	Asia United Bank	7.16%	6.15%	784,157,853	666,512,669	10,951,925,316	10,837,604,379
29	27	Banco de Oro	6.71%	7.81%	4,548,326,406	4,971,694,830	67,784,298,152	63,658,064,405
30	32	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	6.47%	4.29%	698,638,800	434,821,419	10,798,126,732	10,135,697,417
31	31	Mizuho Corporate Bank	6.10%	5.59%	479,737,635	481,849,885	7,864,551,393	8,619,854,830
32	30	HSBC	5.31%	5.66%	1,263,694,157	1,338,747,425	23,798,383,371	23,652,781,360
33	33	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	5.01%	3.59%	149,123,381	149,123,381	2,976,514,591	4,153,854,624
34	34	ING Barings	2.74%	2.45%	291,627,827	279,186,474	10,643,351,332	11,395,366,289
35	35	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	1.88%	1.87%	217,895,406	218,091,749	11,590,181,170	11,662,660,374
36	36	Citibank	1.23%	1.25%	1,477,265,616	1,784,954,942	120,102,895,581	142,796,395,347
37	38	ABN-AMRO Bank	0.39%	0.57%	28,015,197	27,265,756	7,183,383,846	4,783,465,965
38	37	Korea Exchange Bank	0.00%	0.71%	1,619	13,259,653	1,619,020,000	1,873,361,592
39	39	Bank of America[b]	0.00%	0.12%	9,627	1,719,367	913,206,327	1,432,805,617
40	40	"Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]"	0.00%	0.00%	-	-	2,983,497,133	2,681,120,320
40	40	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	0.00%	0.00%	-	-	7,635,738,971	9,814,465,832
		GRAND TOTAL Php			262,263,819,710	260,995,924,909	1,615,574,413,300	1,620,185,742,293

Total Deposit Accounts of Commercial Banks

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

Ranking Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Commercial Banks	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	% Change	Q1 '02	% Change
1	1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	333,886,689,908	328,573,895,016	1.6%	299,741,125,921	11.4%
2	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	270,894,497,337	264,685,110,065	2.3%	260,526,028,885	4.0%
3	3	Land Bank of the Philippines	181,905,508,497	176,516,372,903	3.1%	174,882,924,710	4.0%
4	4	Equitable PCI Bank	171,764,762,701	167,035,449,759	2.8%	154,748,773,504	11.0%
5	6	Philippine National Bank	142,718,886,583	135,845,646,480	5.1%	129,587,266,808	10.1%
6	5	Citibank	141,050,551,560	144,151,627,567	-2.2%	144,229,043,180	-2.2%
7	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	107,675,198,985	101,398,202,337	6.2%	103,148,061,214	4.4%
8	8	Banco de Oro	92,835,445,307	90,953,858,961	2.1%	59,816,553,218	55.2%
9	11	Allied Banking Corporation	84,259,337,204	79,903,868,474	5.5%	79,050,227,631	6.6%
10	9	United Coconut Planters Bank	81,213,760,816	83,030,443,984	-2.2%	80,594,452,142	0.8%
11	10	China Banking Corp.	76,358,438,418	81,112,167,014	-5.9%	63,816,941,970	19.7%
12	12	HSBC	53,035,482,099	49,372,977,085	7.4%	51,724,712,418	2.5%
13	13	Union Bank of the Philippines	44,146,991,977	41,696,427,434	5.9%	32,185,243,038	37.2%
14	14	Security Bank Corp.	39,474,076,356	39,153,895,446	0.8%	39,183,453,736	0.7%
15	16	Development Bank of the Philippines	36,695,259,490	34,971,323,917	4.9%	33,098,550,703	10.9%
16	15	Prudential Bank	35,195,325,588	35,228,688,232	-0.1%	35,813,430,815	-1.7%
17	17	Philippine Bank of Communications	32,967,557,272	33,924,564,754	-2.8%	30,817,212,312	7.0%
18	18	International Exchange Bank	31,142,196,745	31,453,444,418	-1.0%	28,818,314,419	8.1%
19	20	Bank of Commerce	29,950,335,484	28,212,851,387	6.2%	16,233,936,887	84.5%
20	19	Philippine Trust Co.	28,547,204,710	28,525,405,788	0.1%	27,068,483,389	5.5%
21	21	Standard Chartered Bank	21,968,445,051	26,566,798,316	-17.3%	22,867,455,429	-3.9%
22	23	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	15,445,157,883	14,015,171,533	10.2%	12,393,778,739	24.6%
23	25	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	12,148,333,565	10,747,454,973	13.0%	10,827,744,217	12.2%
24	24	East West Bank	11,046,845,625	10,924,477,091	1.1%	9,669,971,002	14.2%
25	22	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	9,873,918,101	14,061,622,966	-29.8%	14,742,265,676	-33.0%
26	26	United Overseas Bank	8,439,782,740	9,139,389,340	-7.7%	12,760,101,151	-33.9%
27	27	Philippine Veterans Bank	8,246,814,288	8,771,637,465	-6.0%	8,392,796,010	-1.7%
28	29	Asia United Bank	7,431,009,570	7,370,287,142	0.8%	5,962,273,197	24.6%
29	28	JP Morgan Chase Bank	6,708,069,563	8,661,073,702	-22.5%	5,311,808,009	26.3%
30	31	Export and Industry Bank	6,279,061,904	5,701,556,568	10.1%	5,348,044,517	17.4%
31	30	Maybank Phils. Inc.	6,037,956,264	5,866,397,774	2.9%	5,862,466,860	3.0%
32	32	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	5,371,865,411	5,539,646,761	-3.0%	4,422,388,086	21.5%
33	35	ABN-AMRO Bank	3,964,451,879	3,474,103,868	14.1%	6,693,384,463	-40.8%
34	34	Mizuho Corporate Bank	3,749,001,016	4,203,880,136	-10.8%	3,462,242,205	8.3%
35	36	ING Barings	3,077,493,444	2,806,143,621	9.7%	4,288,150,538	-28.2%
36	37	Korea Exchange Bank	2,635,476,706	2,475,507,181	6.5%	3,744,175,651	-29.6%
37	33	Bank of America[b]	2,295,728,437	4,208,611,048	-45.5%	3,823,117,343	-40.0%
38	39	International Commercial Bank of China	2,146,585,613	1,973,679,734	8.8%	2,864,752,212	-25.1%
39	38	"Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]"	1,915,548,956	2,394,525,713	-20.0%	3,693,642,631	-48.1%
40	40	Bangkok Bank	618,222,098	577,192,729	7.1%	487,534,354	26.8%
41	41	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	360,013,230	337,273,567	6.7%	317,551,057	13.4%
		Global Bank[d]				36,578,298,777	-100.0%
		GRAND TOTAL Php	2,155,477,288,381	2,125,562,672,249	1.4%	2,029,598,679,026	6.2%

Total Capital Accounts of Commercial Banks

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

Ranking Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Commercial Banks	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	% Change	Q1 '02	% Change
1	2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	51,595,076,469	50,010,237,898	3.2%	49,490,115,493	4.3%
2	1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	50,770,792,378	50,609,889,924	0.3%	49,163,235,211	3.3%
3	3	Equitable PCI Bank	41,120,198,337	40,960,136,217	0.4%	42,081,496,925	-2.3%
4	4	Philippine National Bank	23,265,603,832	23,837,039,475	-2.4%	13,987,898,950	66.3%
5	5	Land Bank of the Philippines	20,954,024,611	20,855,366,921	0.5%	19,894,722,026	5.3%
6	6	Development Bank of the Philippines	18,557,288,475	18,998,612,273	-2.3%	18,781,356,502	-1.2%
7	7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	16,679,401,536	15,459,928,341	7.9%	15,275,555,198	9.2%
8	8	China Banking Corp.	15,944,540,185	15,148,801,025	5.3%	13,363,708,602	19.3%
9	9	Banco de Oro	14,116,148,755	13,675,803,166	3.2%	11,348,736,229	24.4%
10	11	Allied Banking Corporation	13,759,572,540	13,099,602,657	5.0%	12,461,937,383	10.4%
11	10	Union Bank of the Philippines	13,577,315,497	13,311,227,923	2.0%	13,157,404,364	3.2%
12	12	Security Bank Corp.	9,904,806,369	9,700,742,892	2.1%	9,229,070,502	7.3%
13	13	Prudential Bank	8,958,062,038	8,676,636,695	3.2%	8,061,857,599	11.1%
14	14	Philippine Bank of Communications	6,500,757,960	6,705,882,054	-3.1%	6,387,243,100	1.8%
15	15	Citibank	4,661,710,856	4,661,129,409	0.0%	4,658,034,937	0.1%
16	16	Export and Industry Bank	4,242,414,736	4,195,985,071	1.1%	4,000,674,096	6.0%
17	17	Philippine Trust Co.	4,055,579,936	4,002,533,616	1.3%	3,764,119,892	7.7%
18	18	International Exchange Bank	3,960,598,612	3,892,328,574	1.8%	3,653,837,830	8.4%
19	19	Philippine Veterans Bank	3,566,050,425	3,863,061,482	-7.7%	3,721,727,492	-4.2%
20	21	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	3,528,486,872	3,392,449,376	4.0%	3,141,917,149	12.3%
21	20	Bank of Commerce	3,507,292,754	3,747,305,298	-6.4%	3,378,587,521	3.8%
22	22	Asia United Bank	3,254,876,563	3,202,346,150	1.6%	2,876,120,880	13.2%
23	27	ABN-AMRO Bank	3,047,164,342	2,568,689,393	18.6%	2,453,052,001	24.2%
24	24	East West Bank	2,857,141,537	2,832,080,752	0.9%	2,709,667,870	5.4%
25	25	"Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]"	2,676,826,389	2,662,622,218	0.5%	2,612,949,856	2.4%
26	26	Maybank Phils. Inc.	2,502,092,913	2,573,478,954	-2.8%	2,544,772,832	-1.7%
27	23	United Coconut Planters Bank	1,853,082,118	2,855,276,522	-35.1%	5,234,692,290	-64.6%
28	29	HSBC	1,328,550,990	1,344,882,130	-1.2%	1,350,000,000	-1.6%
29	30	Standard Chartered Bank	1,256,834,500	1,243,200,000	1.1%	1,240,000,000	1.4%
30	28	ING Barings	1,232,760,404	1,621,612,304	-24.0%	1,238,084,497	-0.4%
31	32	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	720,433,671	720,433,671	0.0%	720,433,671	0.0%
32	31	United Overseas Bank	683,749,395	1,177,368,663	-41.9%	1,621,927,942	-57.8%
33	33	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	625,000,000	625,000,000	0.0%	625,000,000	0.0%
34	34	Mizuho Corporate Bank	601,912,598	601,912,599	0.0%	601,912,599	0.0%
35	35	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	506,096,011	469,419,977	7.8%	501,484,255	0.9%
36	36	Bank of America[b]	408,234,067	422,500,000	-3.4%	422,500,000	-3.4%
37	37	International Commercial Bank of China	405,434,000	405,434,000	0.0%	405,434,000	0.0%
38	38	Bangkok Bank	265,831,677	265,831,677	0.0%	265,831,677	0.0%
39	39	Korea Exchange Bank	257,000,000	257,000,000	0.0%	257,000,000	0.0%
40	40	JP Morgan Chase Bank	168,481,853	223,753,311	-24.7%	234,020,431	-28.0%
41	41	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	(284,612,060)	(274,378,720)	-3.7%	(242,364,094)	17.4%
		Global Bank[d]				7,553,735,269	
		GRAND TOTAL Php	357,592,614,139	354,603,163,888	0.8%	344,229,492,978	3.9%

Investment in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments of Commercial Banks

(1st quarter 2002 & 2003 & 4th Qtr. 2002)

Ranking Q1 '03	Q4 '02	Commercial Banks	Q1 '03	Q4 '02	% Change	Q1 '02	% Change
1	1	Bank of the Philippine Islands	95,562,488,451	99,489,581,700	-3.9%	86,321,760,656	10.7%
2	2	Land Bank of the Philippines	84,407,006,041	84,993,018,001	-0.7%	62,057,055,743	36.0%
3	3	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.[d]	82,169,783,999	70,866,633,456	15.9%	75,369,020,662	9.0%
4	4	Philippine National Bank	43,759,243,842	39,470,723,800	10.9%	34,686,644,097	26.2%
5	6	Citibank	32,926,912,247	35,286,987,896	-6.7%	36,648,292,850	-10.2%
6	7	Banco de Oro	32,307,948,661	31,737,718,425	1.8%	14,932,305,468	116.4%
7	8	Union Bank of the Philippines	29,830,977,317	29,318,580,507	1.7%	9,514,498,890	213.5%
8	10	Equitable PCI Bank	27,499,212,427	22,734,138,569	21.0%	21,419,139,742	28.4%
9	5	China Banking Corp.	27,485,011,908	35,649,576,782	-22.9%	27,479,449,176	0.0%
10	9	Development Bank of the Philippines	24,196,085,634	23,056,704,063	4.9%	19,925,594,662	21.4%
11	11	HSBC	22,267,719,583	21,221,239,763	4.9%	21,471,237,453	3.7%
12	12	Allied Banking Corporation	16,969,906,405	16,572,804,634	2.4%	16,042,239,099	5.8%
13	14	United Coconut Planters Bank	13,191,964,829	13,696,785,474	-3.7%	4,981,019,241	164.8%
14	15	Prudential Bank	12,592,940,972	12,668,648,327	-0.6%	11,554,642,443	9.0%
15	17	Philippine Bank of Communications	10,278,480,565	8,600,106,083	19.5%	5,296,136,827	94.1%
16	16	Philippine Trust Co.	9,741,212,663	10,162,718,020	-4.1%	6,763,918,204	44.0%
17	13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	9,416,393,217	13,839,329,107	-32.0%	14,357,183,383	-34.4%
18	18	Security Bank Corp.	8,202,697,253	7,842,582,559	4.6%	6,367,312,188	28.8%
19	20	Bank of Commerce	7,357,042,287	7,107,552,122	3.5%	3,263,259,524	125.5%
20	19	International Exchange Bank	7,215,399,896	7,144,762,297	1.0%	6,187,141,492	16.6%
21	21	United Overseas Bank	5,881,987,938	5,602,763,039	5.0%	6,171,849,800	-4.7%
22	22	Chinatrust (Phils.) Comm'l Bank Corp.	3,885,868,076	4,140,017,113	-6.1%	4,140,070,140	-6.1%
23	23	Standard Chartered Bank	3,571,052,640	3,560,866,259	0.3%	6,510,667,796	-45.2%
24	24	Philippine Veterans Bank	3,027,674,111	3,346,383,259	-9.5%	2,759,461,312	9.7%
25	26	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group	2,673,846,081	2,729,139,678	-2.0%	935,963,681	185.7%
26	28	JP Morgan Chase Bank	2,492,290,274	1,964,102,054	26.9%	1,508,491,679	65.2%
27	27	Bank of America[b]	2,202,132,233	2,284,063,349	-3.6%	2,217,042,940	-0.7%
28	29	Export and Industry Bank	2,015,728,193	1,956,079,683	3.0%	2,949,860,129	-31.7%
29	33	Asia United Bank	1,482,954,221	864,676,512	71.5%	681,461,347	117.6%
30	31	Maybank Phils. Inc.	1,470,892,157	1,206,054,451	22.0%	1,078,668,767	36.4%
31	30	East West Bank	1,346,661,349	1,855,501,069	-27.4%	798,259,513	68.7%
32	32	ING Barings	1,345,105,341	960,534,062	40.0%	936,985,109	43.6%
33	25	ABN-AMRO Bank	1,073,738,344	3,078,744,412	-65.1%	233,262,336	360.3%
34	34	Korea Exchange Bank	644,075,478	649,436,158	-0.8%	724,913,984	-11.2%
35	35	"Banco Santander Phils., Inc.[a]"	543,652,538	555,568,661	-2.1%	705,614,923	-23.0%
36	36	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	522,577,422	524,642,522	-0.4%	510,337,767	2.4%
37	37	Mizuho Corporate Bank	387,037,892	386,959,149	0.0%	1,838,235,934	-78.9%
38	39	International Commercial Bank of China	42,469,097	43,626,582	-2.7%	10,795,620	293.4%
39	38	Bangkok Bank	34,743,152	250,937,279	-86.2%	284,827,694	-87.8%
40	40	Al-Amanah Islamic Bank	14,101,685	4,101,685	243.8%	14,147,457	-0.3%
41	41	Deutsche Bank AG[c]	-	-		-	
		Global Bank[d]				8,509,702,346	-100.0%
		GRAND TOTAL Php	632,037,016,420	627,424,388,560	0.7%	528,158,472,077	19.7%

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[a] Banco Santander- total loan portfolio amount derived from its reported Dosri amount & Dosri ratio

[b] Bank of America- total loan portfolio amount derived from its reported Dosri amount and Dosri ratio

[c] Deutsche Bank - no 1st quarter '03 ROE figure after it incurred a loss; total loan portfolio amount derived from reported Dosri amount & Dosri ratio

[d] Global Bank- assets and liabilities bought by Metrobank after the 3rd quarter of 2002

sources: Published statements of condition, BSP —Compiled by : Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Banks say T-bills still the safest . . .

From page BQ-1

John McGowan
senior vice president for treasury and capital markets, HSBC

"IF you are planning to make an investment, you should remember three basic things:

- Invest only in what you know you can tie your money up until investment matures. If in doubt, keep investments for a shorter period.
- Make sure you are comfortable with the institutions you are placing your hard-earned savings in.
- Make sure you understand the product you are investing in.

"Straightforward investments, like time deposits, are easy to comprehend, but there are products that could give higher returns but are normally more complex. You should understand all the implications of investing in the products you are choosing.

"For those who opt for short-term investments (below one year), HSBC has time deposits. A three-month time deposit provides a gross rate of 5.95 percent and a net rate of 4.75 percent after the deduction of the 20-percent withholding tax. A six-month deposit, meanwhile, provides a 6.5 -percent gross rate and a 5.2 -percent net rate.

"These rates are subject to negotiation, but one has to remember that the higher the investment, the higher the yield.

"Clients may also go for short-term treasury bills. The three-month gross rate is set at 6.95 percent, while the net rate is 5.55 percent. The six-month T-bill's gross rate is 7.4 percent, while its net rate is 5.9 percent.

"For the medium-term (between one and five years), a client may go for the one-year time deposit, which offers 8.25 percent gross rate and 6.6 percent net rate.

"Also for the medium-term investor, there is what you call a bond fund, which does not provide a guaranteed rate, but based on its track record has provided roughly 9 percent rate for a three-year investment and 9.5 percent for a four-year investment. The bond fund is not slapped with a withholding tax.

"For long-term investors, they may put their money in five-year time deposit in a reputable bank. What makes five-year time deposits advantageous is that they are tax exempt. It offers a rate of 9.6 percent, and a client is allowed to receive the interest monthly if he wishes to.

"I would like to give a note of caution to investors. Any client has to be aware that if somebody offers a rate that is so much higher than market rates, they should think twice before investing. Be cautious because you might be dealing with illegal investment activities like pyramiding. Ask yourself why and how someone would give you a very high interest. Remember that usually, the higher the interest rate, the higher the risk.

Gerardo Munarriz
treasurer
United Overseas Bank

"PEOPLE who have P100,000 to P500,000 in excess funds are probably those who would like to keep this 'hard-earned' money intact in order to have something for the rainy days.

"Therefore, their money should be channeled to guaranteed investment products such as time deposits or similar high yielding deposit products offered by banks. You may of course consider the United Overseas Bank for this.

"I also recommend investing in government securities as these are considered risk-free. Of course, yields in these instruments are normally lower than bank deposits

"Furthermore, these government securities are liquid. Meaning that if the investor becomes in need of liquidity, he can easily sell the securities in the market for cash prior to maturity.

"One should also look at the investment horizon. If there is no foreseeable change in interest rates in the next three to six months, one may consider investing longer instead of the usual one-month placements.. Longer tenors usually carry higher yields.

"For P100,000 placed in time deposits, UOB may give a 5-percent interest. For a P500,000 deposit, we could provide 5.25-percent interest.

Fernando J. Sison III
vice president for asset management and trust group
Bank of the Philippine Islands

"IF a client has P100,000 and would like to maximize his yield, then I would recommend the following:

- For short-term investment, the Gold Passbook is ideal. It can be placed for a month and has a present yield of 4.75 percent.
- For long-term investment, he or she can invest in BPI Individual Retirement Fund. It is a tax-free investment, which has a term of five years. The yield is maximized because of its tax exemption. It comes with a free accident and life insurance coverage.

"If a client has P500,000, the following are the recommended options:

- For short-term investment, the Short-Term Income Fund is advisable. It has a holiday period of 30 days. This is an investment fund that is placed entirely in fixed-income instruments like government securities and time deposits. The historical yield for the past 30 days is 6.86 percent.
- For medium-term investment, a client may invest in the Premium Funds, which has a holding period of 90 days. This is an investment fund placed in a diversified portfolio of high grade government securities, commercial papers, bonds and other fixed income instruments. Its historical yield for the past 90 days was 6.95 percent.
- For long-term investment, one may put his or her money in the Individual Retirement Fund and in BPI Premium Fund. The latter is a common trust fund (CTF) managed by the BPI Asset Management, or in treasury bills of fixed-income treasury notes. BPI Premium Fund's minimum investment requirement is P300,000 and is available in BPI branches.

Local lenders . . .

From page BQ-1

While the latter prevented what could have been an ugly turnout for the Philippines as the failure to pass the amendments to the AMLA before March 15 would have led the Financial Action Task Force to start imposing economic sanctions, the former was believed to be a catalyst for recovery.

But even the much-touted relief to come from the SPAV seemed to be taking a long time to happen.

Four months after the law providing incentives to SPAVs (companies that will buy bad loans and assets and turn these around and make money from them), only the country's largest bank had committed to dispose of its soured loans.

The transfer to a foreign asset management firm of some P15 billion worth of non-performing loans or NPLs of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. took place even before the SPAV law was passed. No other lender followed Metrobank's lead.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura believed that some deals between banks and asset management companies would finally take place in the coming months.

"Hopefully, we would see more action on the SPAVs during the second quarter as issues like accounting and tax treatment shall be resolved soon."

The urgency of reducing the industry's bad loans heightened anew in the first quarter when the banking sector's NPLs, or loans whose principal or interest remained unpaid for at least 90 days, went up anew to P262.26 billion or about 16 percent of total loans from P260.995 billion in end-2002.

Using the BSP's new and more relaxed definition, banks' NPLs as of end-March stood at P253.92 billion or 15.5 percent of total loans. Responsible for jacking up the industry average were Philippine National Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank.

PNB's bad loans remained the third highest in the industry at P48.85 billion or 53 percent of total loans, up from P44.939 billion or 51 percent of total loans in end-2002.

Despite the increased NPLs, the country's sixth-largest lender managed to post a net income of P53 million in the first quarter, its first in 10 quarters after cutting interest payments on deposits and debts. A year ago, PNB registered a net loss of P783 million.

The bank had just completed its first year of rehabilitation last May 3 and PNB officials noted that the company had been moving well ahead of schedule. PNB's return-on-equity was a positive one percent from a negative 11 percent in end-2002 and negative 27 percent a year ago.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan said that based on the rehab plan, the bank should return to profitability by 2006. He also recognized that the bank's NPL problem remained its biggest challenge and said PNB should sell some P15 billion worth of soured loans this year.

Like PNB, Land Bank of the Philippines is raring to get rid of the NPLs and said it would soon hire a financial adviser to help dispose of P15-P20 billion worth of NPLs and foreclosed assets this year.

Banks' real and other properties owned or acquired or ropoa rose 14 percent to P174.6 billion against P153.22 billion in the first quarter of 2002 and up by almost 5 percent from P166.63 billion in the fourth quarter.

PNB's foreclosed assets topped the industry's list at P27.1 billion, up 8 percent from P25.11 billion a year ago, followed by Metrobank with a ropoa at P25.87 billion.

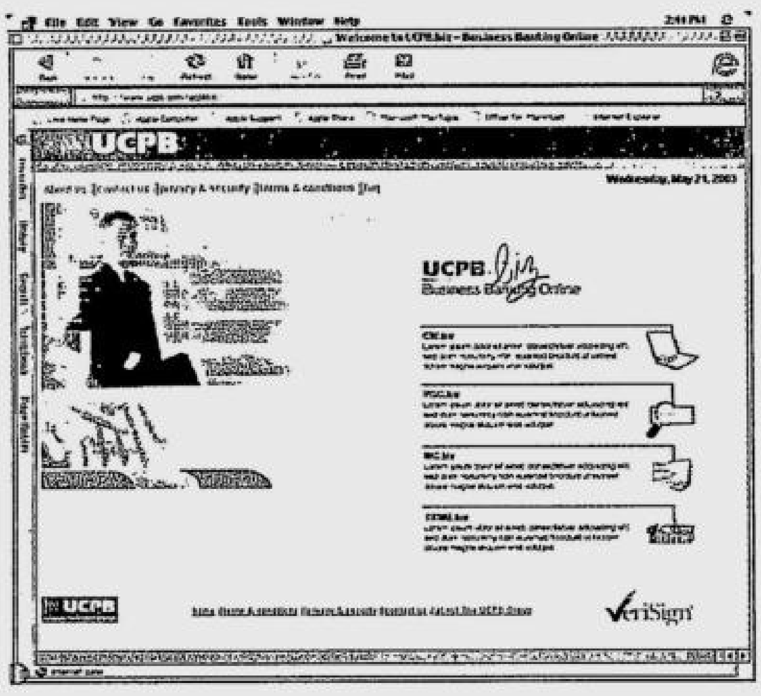
Landbank's bad loans of P26.6 billion or 20.45 percent of total loans were slightly lower than the previous three-month period but foreclosed assets rose 22.2 percent to P13.94 billion from P11.4 billion in end-March 2002.

UCPB, a sequestered bank in need of urgent assistance, posted higher NPLs and ropoas in the first quarter.

Even worse for the 12th-largest bank was its much-deteriorated capital that stood P1.85 billion as of the first quarter, down 65 percent from P5.23 billion a year ago and lower by 35 percent from P2.86 billion in end-2002.

The bank's return-on-equity further worsened to a negative 77.87 percent in the first quarter from negative 68.78 percent in end-2002 and negative 46.42 percent in the same period last year.

For other lenders, the first quarter was not as traumatic although the country's two biggest—Metrobank and Bank of the Philippine Islands—posted lower profits compared to the previous year.



UCPB Launches
Online Banking Facility
For Corporate Clients

UCPB has launched www.ucpb.biz, a new Internet banking facility with a unique multi-approval system that can be customized to conform to the existing approval processes of all types of business organizations. Users of the facility can thus process banking transactions entirely online in a secure environment.

The unique multi-approval system of UCPB.biz allows users to define the approval rules for each type of transaction, set individual approval limits, and specify the approving authorities of every user within the organization. The system can designate up to 26 levels of signing classes, and classify each one of them as a "maker", "approver" or "maker/approver" of a specific transaction.

All transactions are recorded so that there is an audit trail that can be reviewed should the need arise.

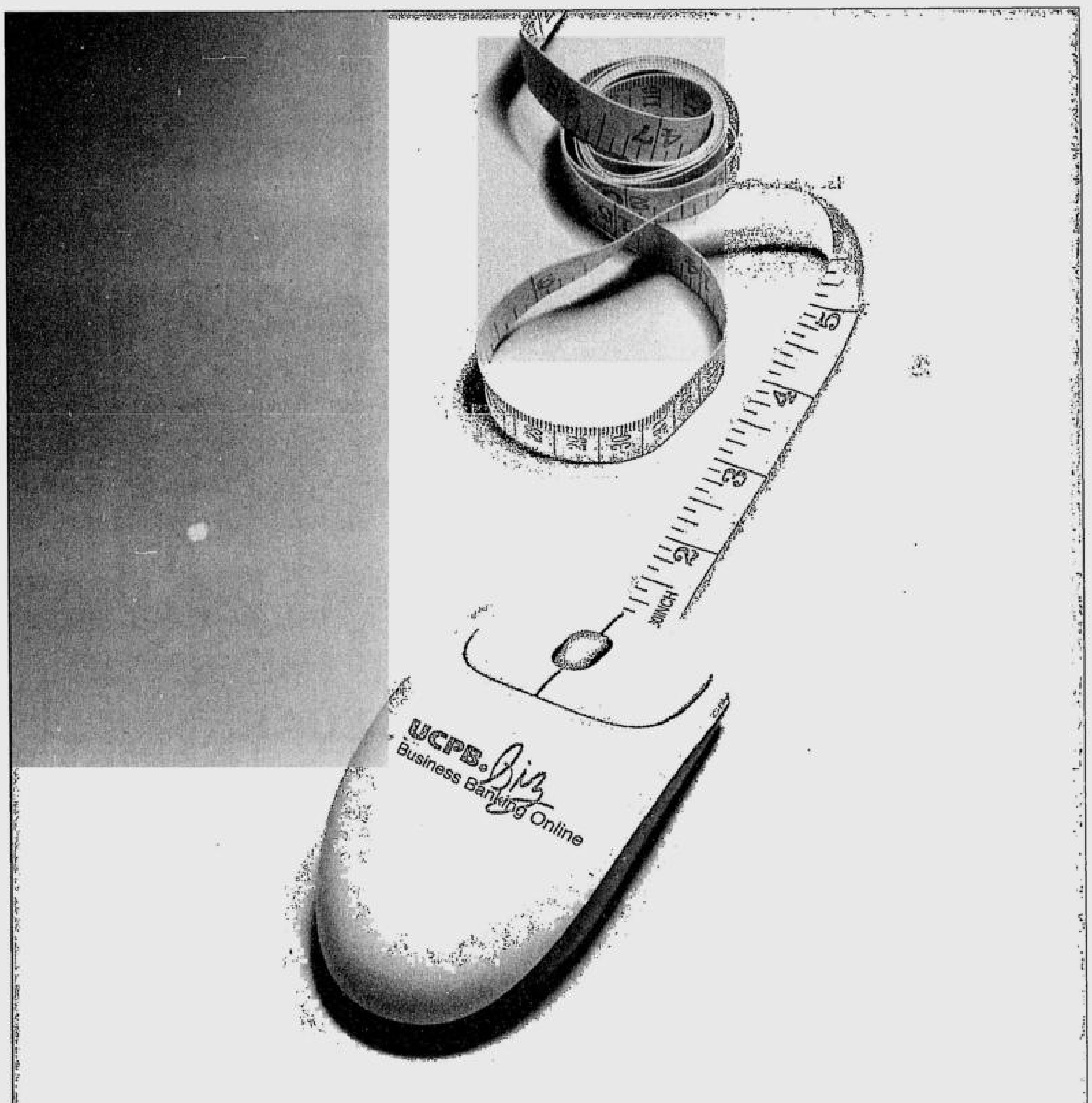
With its three cash management modules, UCPB.biz offers corporations a powerful tool for managing their financial assets more efficiently.

For instance, through the cash manager module, users can monitor their account balances, including float items, and request for statements of account for the past twelve months to be sent via e-mail or fax. They can transfer funds to any UCPB account in real time or program the module to transfer funds on a specific date or on a monthly basis. Upon completion of the transaction, the module automatically sends a confirmation to the sender as well as the recipient of the fund transfer via text, e-mail or fax message.

The post-dated check warehousing module, on the other hand, allows the users to keep track of all post-dated checks in their UCPB PDC warehousing account. Through this module, users view maturing checks, posted checks, outstanding checks, pulled-out checks, reset checks and download system generated reports for their ready reference.

There is also a 1Time Payment module that the users can use to electronically settle port and arrastre charges at the Manila International Container Port and pay on-line purchases

UCPB.BIZ is the latest Internet offering of the bank. Previously, the bank released UCPB Connect (wired and wireless channels) and the 1Time Payment facility (www.my1time.com) for the retail market.



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UCPB @40 A new beginning

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Banks post mixed first-quarter results

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE FIRST quarter saw the country's commercial banks reporting mixed earnings results.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Bank of the Philippine Islands, the country's largest banks, posted lower earnings, while some mid-sized banks continued to show strong profit growth. Others showed minimal changes.

Bankers say the higher interest rates in the first quarter led to lower income from trading gains, the main driver of the sector's 40-percent profit hike last year.

As a result, most banks expect that earnings could not possibly rise substantially this year. Many bank chief executives said they would be happy even if they could equal their last year's profits this year.

Here's a rundown of the earnings performance of some commercial banks in the first quarter and what the banks had to say about it:

•Metrobank, owned and controlled by taipan George Ty, saw its profit in the first quarter drop 23 percent to P465 million from P602 million in the same quarter last year.

Metrobank executive vice president Alfredo Javellana II blamed it on expenses related to the integration of Global Business Bank into Metrobank.

Javellana also cited lower trading gains, tighter spreads and flat lending for the lower profit.

• BPI reported that its profit in the quarter fell 8 percent to P1.361 billion from last year's P1.48 billion.

The bank traced the decline to narrower interest margins.

Other income also fell below last year's level due to lower trading gains.

•Land Bank of the Philippines reported a 1.4-percent rise in profit to P576 million, but warned that this could go down by a range of P72 million to P292 million, depending on how much of the 10-percent value added tax payments for the period would be absorbed by the bank.

•Development Bank of the Philippines said its profit fell slightly to P474 million from P485 million.

DBP president and chief executive Simon Paterno said that while interest rates should help banks post improved margins, DBP could not take advantage of this since a big chunk of its loan portfolio was based on fixed interest rates.

•Philippine National Bank, controlled by the government and the group of Lucio Tan, for the first time in five years posted a profit of P53 million, a turnaround from the P783 million in losses during the first quarter last year.

Actual interest income stayed flat but other income, largely from fee-based businesses and sale of acquired assets, went up 26 percent.

•The first quarter profit of China Banking Corp., owned largely by the Yuchengco, Dee and Sy families, soared by 33 percent in the quarter to P765 million.

Chinabank president Peter Dee attributed the improvement in this year's first quarter profit to a 26.84- percent increase in net interest income and 47.6-percent rise in other income, which more than offset a 43-percent hike in operating expenses.

•Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., majority-owned by the Yuchengco family, said its profit in the period grew almost five times to P562.3 million against last year's P117.5 million.

RCBC said the bank's thrust to diversify its portfolio risks resulted in the growth of other income.

•Banco de Oro Universal Bank, owned by the Sy family, said its profit in the quarter more than doubled to P271 million from P134 million.

•Union Bank of the Philippines, majority-held by the Cebu-based Aboitiz family, said its profit in the first quarter fell 7 percent to P470.48 million mainly because of the 64-percent fall in other income.

•Allied Banking Corp., controlled by the Lucio Tan, said its earnings in the quarter spiked to P216 million from P87 million on the back of higher interest margins.

•Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp. said its profit in the quarter stood at P197 million or almost the same as the P195 million in the same quarter last year.

•Security Bank said its profit in the quarter was up 17 percent to P156 million despite an 18- percent decline in net interest income.

Other income also fell 27 percent to P398 million but the bank managed to trim its other expenses.

Customer Protect Financing: A rewarding payment scheme

REALISTICALLY speaking, now is the perfect time to secure a loan because the market is currently experiencing historic low interest rates at the moment.

But no matter how low rates are today, there's likelihood that it may not be the same 10-15 years from now. At the onset, what worries most borrowers is that the interest rate applied on their loan this year may not be the same next year. There is no guarantee that loan applicants are protected from interest rate fluctuations, and for borrowers with limited financial capabilities, this scenario is not reassuring.

Which is why for its Home Suite Loan program, East West Banking Corp. (EWBC), one of the fastest-growing commercial banks in the country today, came up with a payment scheme that factors in fixed rate adjustments into the loan program, taking into consideration the future positive lifestyle changes of the borrower aside from financial capability.

EWBC's Customer Protect Financing program sets the Home Suite Loan apart from the housing loans offered by other banks because this unique payment scheme carefully plans out the borrower's monthly amortization for the entire term of the loan. The ultimate benefit that the borrower gets under this program is the assurance and protection against the dangers of fluctuating interest rates to help him manage his payment schedule. No surprises even when there are sudden surges in interest rates.

Though interest rates for loans today is at a low level, the succeeding rates that can be applied to the loan in the following years is still undetermined. Compared to what other banks offer, only EWBC's Customer Protect Financing program allows the borrower to plan his repayment schedule because the amount he needs to repay his loan throughout its entire term is already fixed. This way, budgeting of payments for the loan is easy.

More than that, the borrower is also protected during the initial stages of his loan with a low monthly amortization, to make loan repayment more affordable during the critical period – usually the first two years. During this time, a borrower not only worries about loan payments but other extraneous expenses as well like buying new furnishings, appliances, etc. If the borrower is an employee with a fixed income or a businessman who expects his business to grow in the succeeding years, the program is a perfect complement. It conforms to the progression of the borrower's employment or business cycle, allowing him an easy financing package especially during the early stages of adjustment.

EWBC's Customer Protect Financing program is available in two payment terms: 15 years and 10 years depending on the loan program of choice. The latter is advisable for those who don't want to be tied up to a loan for a long period. And if the borrower suddenly has extra money and wishes to pay off his loan, he can do so without worry of other service fees or any pre-payment penalties, unlike other banks.

Securing a home loan can be easy. East West Bank makes sure that borrowers get ample protection, and that their trips to the bank to make loan payments will be a rewarding and worry-free experience.

To know more about Customer Protect Financing Scheme, visit your nearest East West Bank Personalized Banking Center or call the Home Suite Loan Hotline at 421-4296 or 822-2377 (8ACCESS). Or you can e-mail the Bank at service@eastwestbanker.com or visit the website: www.eastwestbanker.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Hard-core porn classic pulled out of Metro theaters

MTRCB slams cult film 'Behind the Green Door'

CHAMBERS up front today.

By Marinel R. Cruz

FILM censors have ordered the pullout from Metro Manila theaters of an American movie that turned out to be a notorious hard-core adult film from the '70s.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) last Wednesday ordered the withdrawal of "Behind the Green Door," saying unapproved sex scenes had been "inserted" in the film.

"Behind the Green Door," originally released in 1972 is considered a "classic" in adult films. It starred Marilyn Chambers, who was eventually identified as a professional mainstream model who pitched very popular consumer products.

The removal of "Behind the Green Door" from exhibition followed the MTRCB's recall last week of a Filipino film, "Kikay," which the agency also found to have inserted sex scenes.

The producers of "Kikay" have admitted inserting the unapproved sex scenes in the movie, according to MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia.

"Behind the Green Door" was locally distributed by Gold Films.

Laguardia said that last Tuesday, she received a call from "a concerned citizen" who complained about the film. She said she sent MTRCB board member Farley Aguila and some MTRCB agents to SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa, Manila, one of the theaters where the movie was being shown.

Laguardia said the MTRCB committee that

HARD-CORE/ A7

AP

HIGH ON J. LO
You'd think Marcus Fitzgerald of London is one lucky guy for grabbing this rare chance. Maybe he is, but the Jennifer Lopez filling his hands is actually one of the latest attractions at Madame Tussauds wax museum in the English city.

SORIANO

Maria on her sons

/C5

EKEDUM

LAUREL

Unknown students are newest MTV VJs

/C2

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MTV VJ HUNT 2003

Unknown students win over stars Toni, Greg, Geff

By Marinel R. Cruz

WHITE-FACED Johan Ekedum and Patty Laurel are it.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

JOHAN who? Patty who?

They're not familiar faces, they're raw talents, but Johan Ekedum and Patty Laurel are the winners of this year's MTV VJ Hunt. Soon, they will be well-known, they and MTV hope.

During the hunt's finals at the Rockwell outdoor plaza in Makati City last May 17, Johan and Patty won the coveted titles from popular TV personalities like Geff Rodriguez, Greg Martin, Reema Chanco and Antoinette Taus.

Johan is 22 and a University of the Philippines industrial design student. Patty, 21, is taking up communication arts at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"Knowing a lot about music would not make you win the VJ post," Johan, a Filipino-Nigerian, said after the triumph. "It's also important that you are having fun."

Johan, who attracted attention with his Afro 'do, said he is into alternative music and is a fan of singer Tori Amos.

Patty said, "I guess I came out as someone who is confident on stage because I concentrated on how to gel with other members of the group. Losing to the other finalists would have hurt me so much if I had considered everything we did for the past three weeks as competition, but I didn't."

Patty said she already feels that "this is the start of something really big for the two of us."

The Saturday night finals, scheduled to start at 7 p.m., in fact opened two hours later with a dance number featuring all the 13 finalists.

Each finalist hosted a segment of the show after hosts KC Montero and Belinda Panelo picked their names from a glass bowl.

The finalists took turns in introducing the bands Sugarfree, Domino, Kapatid and the new South Border.

Toward the end of the show, three characters dressed as househelps went up the stage and picked the winners by covering the surprised, happy faces of Johan and Patty with powder.

Mossimo bikini summit on RPN

SHOW TIME

THE 2003 Mossimo Bikini Summit finals will be shown on RPN 9's "Sunday's Big Event" on Sunday, May 25, 9 p.m.

A total of 24 finalists vie for cash and prizes that include P50,000 cash, an all-expense paid trip to Thailand for two, jewelry from Vie Nouvelle Bijoux, membership at Gold's Gym, P30,000 worth of Mossimo gift certificates and a movie contract with Viva Films.

The finals night is hosted by model and actress Angel Jacob, sportscaster TJ Manotoc and last year's Mossimo Bikini Summit grand champion Carlo Maceda. It also features performances by Luke Mijares, Devotion, the Whiplash Dancers and the Viva Hot Babes.

The Mossimo Bikini Summit launched the careers of Jordan Herrera, Carlo Maceda and Bing Victoria (who appeared in Maricar de Mesa's movie, "Nympha").

April Tanhueco, the 2002 Miss Manila titleholder, is also a Mossimo Bikini Summit alumnus. Jordan, a member of the all-male quartet Power Four (formerly Power Boys) and Carlo have done movies for Viva Films.

Held on the beach front of Boracay's Club Panoly Resort, the Mossimo Bikini Summit finals night is directed by Duds Santiago, with TV direction by Calvin Neria. Styling is by Noel Manapat and Chechel Joson.

The designers for this year's finals are Edwin Uy and Mel Vergel de Dios. Production designer is Rico Ancheta.

The Mossimo Bikini Summit 2003 is a production of Cast and Crew and is also presented with Corporate Air, 7-Up, Gold's Gym and Astoria Plaza.

Cast and Crew and Mossimo announced that next year's competition will conduct a series of local searches leading to the grand finals.

The local searches will be open to franchising.

For more details, call Cast and Crew at 718-1032.

FEMALE FINALISTS of the bikini competition

DID YOU KNOW...

Edu Manzano may have found a new romance with INQUIRER Lifestyle food columnist **Reggie Aspiras**, but the TV host makes it a point to spend time with his two kids with his ex-partner **Rina Samson**—daughter **Addie**, 10, and son **Enzo**, 8. Edu and his kids were seen malling at the Glorietta last Monday afternoon. They also went to the cinemas to check out the schedule of movies.

Nina returns to Onstage

NINA, the voice behind the smash hit, "Jealous," is the featured Tuesday girl this May at Suburbia, the popular night haunt on Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila.

On Thursdays, Nina sings at Aruba Bar (May 29).

Tonight and tomorrow night, Nina returns to Onstage at Greenbelt. She shares the stage with guitarist Paolo Santos.

The 21-year-old Nina is one of the most sought-after artists in the music scene today. A popular FM radio station recently named her best new female artist.

Nina is the latest addition to GMA 7's Sunday noontime show "S.O.P.," where she was recently presented with a gold record award for her debut album, "Heaven."

Annabelle Regalado of E-Talent and Entertainment Productions is managing Nina.

Freestyle at Aliw Theater

FREESTYLE performs live in a free concert at 9 tonight at Aliw Theater at the Star City Complex in Pasay City as part of the Manila Broadcasting Co. (MBC) Super Summer Series.

Tracing their roots to Davao City, the group is composed of vocalists Jinky Vidal and Top Suzara, guitarist Tat Suzara, bassist Carlo Tapia, drummer Gerald Banzon and keyboardist Nikki Cabardo.

Freestyle continues to attract a growing following with its pop and R&B music, especially among the young. Among their OPM hits are "Before I Let You Go," "So Slow," "This Time" and a remake of Gary Valenciano's "Paano."

'Ring' showing, winners' announcement at Fort

GLOBE Gentxt and MTV present "The Ring" tonight at 8 at The Fort.

The screening caps a series of open-air, free movie screenings.

"The Ring" stars Naomi Watts, Martin Henderson and Brian Cox. Four lucky winners will be announced to get a free trip to Los Angeles to watch the 2003 MTV Movie Awards live on May 31 at the Shrine Auditorium, courtesy of Globe Gentxt.

The quirky categories in the MTV Movie Awards include best kiss, best fight, best action sequence, best on-screen team, best villain, best comedic performance and a new addition--best virtual performance.

This year, the MTV Movie Awards rites are expected to be even wackier, with a superhero theme.

The show will be hosted by N'Sync's Justin Timberlake and "American Pie" star Sean William Scott.

Top nominees are "Spiderman" and "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," with five nominations each.

The 2003 MTV Movie Awards, presented by Globe Gentxt, will premiere on MTV Philippines (Channel 41) on June 14 at 2 p.m. and on June 15 at 9 p.m.

Media partners are 89.9 dwTM, 92.3 Joey, 99.5 dwRT, Monster Radio 93.1, 103.5 K-Lite, MTV Ink, Pulp, Seventeen, Preview, Cosmopolitan and Candy magazines.

Fun, games, music and beer in Holiday Inn 'Summerfest'

HOLIDAY Inn Resort Clark Field, the only international resort hotel in the northern part of the Philippines, will celebrate Summerfest 2003.

The two-day affair will be opened by the Enduro San Mig Light Race at the resort hotel's Clarky Adventure Camp and the Liga SMB basketball fun games, as well as other activities at the poolside.

A live band party concert features the bands Retrospect, Brainchild and Moon Cycle tomorrow, May 24.

The Miss Summerfest Bikini Open coronation night and the rave party with Sir DJ Scratch and DJ James will happen on Sunday, May 25.

Tickets for P100 each include entrance and a San Miguel beer. Show starts 6:30 p.m.

For inquiries and reservations, call 845-1888 or (045) 599-8000 or visit the Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field along Mimosa Drive at the Mimosa Leisure Estate in Clark Field, Pampanga.

MOONSTRUCKS AT ROCKWELL

Moonstrucks, the famous band of the '60s and '70s, will give its followers a taste of the revival mania at the "Shindig" benefits show presented by the Philippine Showbands and Musicians Union (PSMU) on June 1 at the Rockwell Power Plant in Makati City. A regular fixture in Metro Manila's popular watering holes, Moonstrucks remains one of the most sought-after bands in the country today. The group will share the stage with Spirit of '67, Rockin' Revival and Dyna Souls. Call 372-1656 or 0919-560 1541.

Jograd looking for new singers for his bar

DE LA TORRE

JOGRAD de la Torre, the former comedian and singer who is now a promoter and bar owner, is looking for young female singers for his Jog999 KTV and Bar at 1501 Princeton St. corner Shaw Blvd. in Mandaluyong City.

The search is in line with the bar's first anniversary in August, when Jograd plans to launch a group of young and pretty singers, 16 to 22 years old, as recording artists.

The new talents will get to record an album of popular covers and original songs composed by top composers, led by Vehnee Saturno.

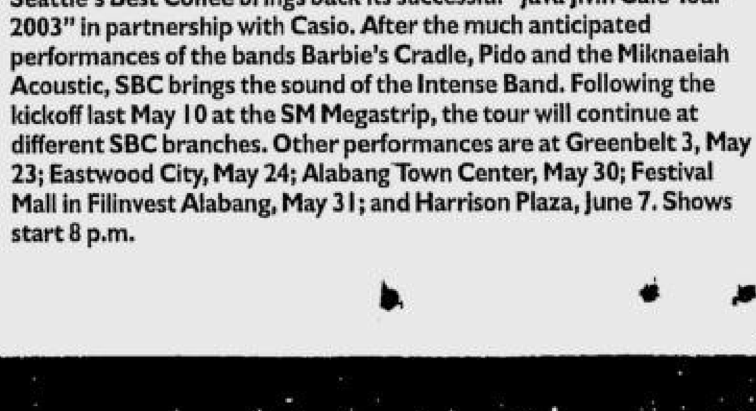
Jograd was himself a recording artist. In the late '90s, he recorded the hit "Pag-ibig Ko'y Metal" for BMG Records Pilipinas.

He also discovered some of today's female hitmakers, including folk-rock singer Gabriela.

Jograd said he wants Jog999 KTV and Bar to be a breeding ground for new stars.

Those interested may call or text Bong de la Torre at 0920-5146904 or 7051560.

Provincial applicants may send photographs, bio-data and demo tape to Jog999, 1501 Princeton St. cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City.



'JAVA JIVIN' CAFE TOUR

Seattle's Best Coffee brings back its successful "Java Jivin Café Tour 2003" in partnership with Casio. After the much anticipated performances of the bands Barbie's Cradle, Pido and the Miknaeiah Acoustic, SBC brings the sound of the Intense Band. Following the kickoff last May 10 at the SM Megastrip, the tour will continue at different SBC branches. Other performances are at Greenbelt 3, May 23; Eastwood City, May 24; Alabang Town Center, May 30; Festival Mall in Filinvest Alabang, May 31; and Harrison Plaza, June 7. Shows start 8 p.m.

Diverse reactions

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT's BOTH interesting and instructive to see how different people on TV are reacting to reports that **Pops Fernandez** recently went to Australia with model **Brad Turvey**, who's around 12 years her junior.

At first, viewers were led to believe that the trip was a *barkada* vacation. That's how it was initially planned, at least. But, as Turvey himself recently recalled, as the scheduled date of the trip neared, their friends started to drop out, one by one—until Pops and Brad could no longer enjoy the advantages of crowd cover.

But they went on with the trip, anyway, knowing fully well that everybody and his grandmother would make a big deal out of it, even if the two stellar tourists weren't.

What's interesting here isn't the fact that Pops and Brad went to Australia for whatever reason, but people's diverse reactions to what they did.

Some liberal-minded folks exclaim, "What's the big deal? They're both over 21 (even if Pops is way over that), and they aren't linked to anybody else, so let's wish them luck and stay out of their friendship or romance, or whatever, which is totally none of our business!"

They add, as a parting shot, "All you *pakialameros*, eat your hearts out. *Inggit lang kayo!"*

That last catty remark is meant to bruise, but the nay-sayers aren't so easily dissuaded. They point out that the fact that a woman is some 12 years older than her beau is a big deal in this country—although the happy likes of **Elizabeth Oropesa**, **Pilar Pilapil** and **Gloria Diaz** would beg to disagree!

Undeterred, the nay-sayers continue to carp:

"Pops has just gotten her annulment, so she shouldn't be so eager to launch into another serious relationship, especially with such a young man." There goes that "age gap" argument again.

"I wonder how Pops' sons really feel about all this? If it's OK with them, they should say so." That would shut up most protesters. After all, if the sons are cool about it, why should anybody else fret?

"And what does (Pops' former husband) **Martin Nievera** feel about possibly being replaced in Pops' affections by a much younger man?" Well, he also has a girlfriend, right?

Basically, that's how the comments and arguments go. Our own take on the incipient "May-August" relationship? Let's remind ourselves that Brad is a Fil-Australian, so he's less limited by the local mindset than Philippines-raised Pinoys.

Also, Pops makes it a point to look and act young for her age, and she's attracted to goodlooking men. So, on that superficial level alone, they could be meant for each other. And, of course, they must see many more things they like in each other, enough to make them face all of the criticism that's been coming their way after their "friendly" visit to Australia.

So, give them space, and worry about our own conundrums. As the liberals hiss, *"Inggit lang kayo!"*

Movies on TV

ON THE HBO channel: Friday, May 23 at 6:30 a.m., "Sister Mary Explains It All." 9:30 a.m., "Billy Madison." 12:30 a.m., "Somewhere in Time." 2:15 a.m., "Starman."

Saturday, May 24 at 12 noon, "Pay It Forward." 5:30 p.m., "Little Women." 9 p.m., "The Majestic." 3:15 a.m., "The Grinch."

Sunday, May 25 at 9:30 a.m., "Disappearing Acts." 6 p.m., "Vertical Limit." 11:35 p.m., "The Tailor of Panama."

On the Cinemax channel: Friday, May 23, at 11:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Racing Through Times." 3:45 p.m., "Another Country." 7:15 p.m., "Memphis Belle."

Saturday, May 24, at 6:30 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: When Fantasy Becomes Reality." 8:45 a.m., "The Time Machine." 3:45 p.m., "Mad About Mambo."

Sunday, May 25, at 1 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Oscar-Winning FX." 1:30 p.m., "The Milagro Beanfield War." 7 p.m., "Tequila Sunrise."

DID YOU KNOW...

Blame it on SARS. The Miss Chinatown beauty pageant, scheduled for May 16 at the Manila Hotel, has been postponed since the Manila government will no longer send a representative to the Miss Chinese International pageant in Hong Kong. **Grace Lee** is the Miss Chinatown 2002 winner.

Regine returns to Baliuag for a show

SHOW TIME

REGINE Velasquez goes back to her roots as she performs in Baliuag for the first time since she represented Bulacan in 1984 to the "Bagong Kampeon" finals.

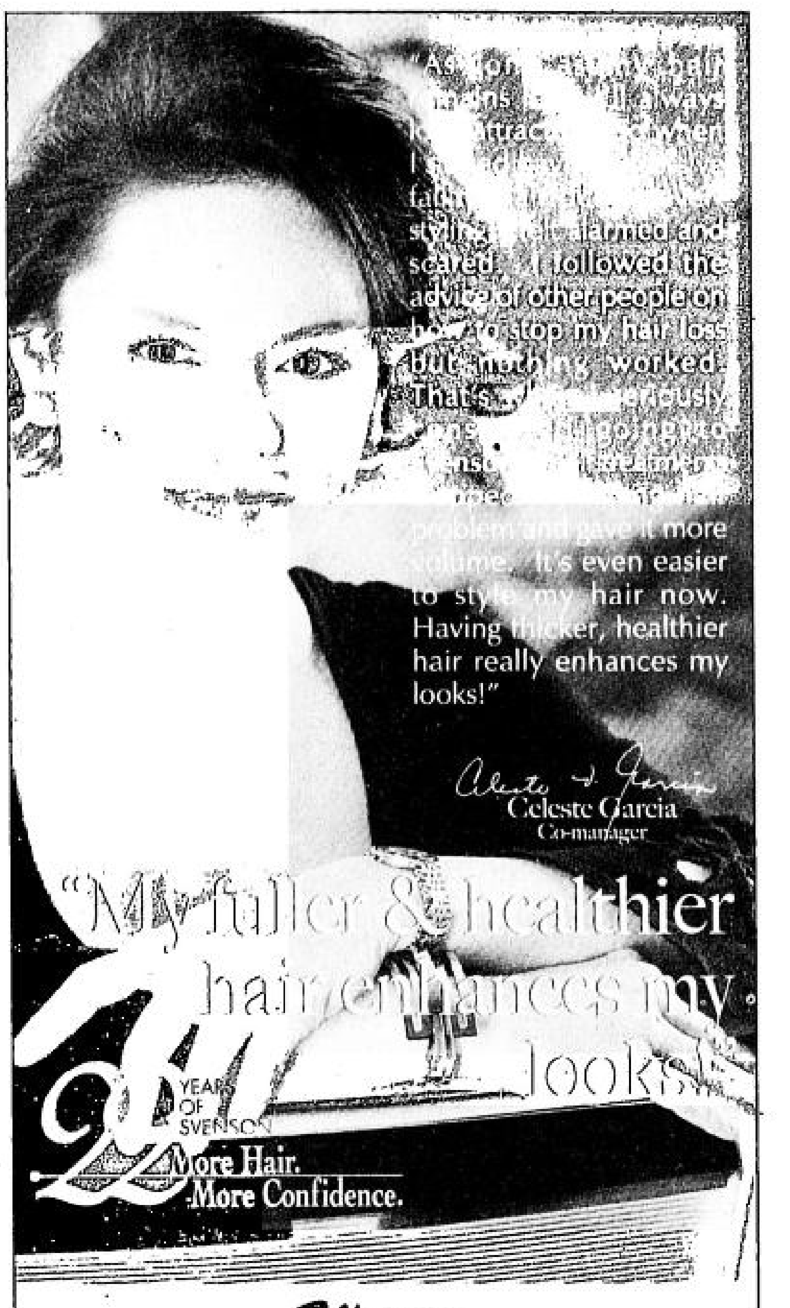
regine will hold a concert on May 30 for her fellow Bulakeños at the TGI Driving Range.

The concert is a joint production of Events and Shows, Inc. and Tenthouse Productions.

For ticket inquiries, call 635-3790 or 688-4404 (Manila) or (044) 766-6326 in Bulacan.

Tickets are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets, Jollibee Bayan, Jollibee Baliuag, Pizza Hut Baliuag, McDonald's Bayan and McDonald's Pulilan.

"Regine Returns to Baliuag" is presented by Sun Cellular and Block and White, with Atena Non-Fat, Hi-Calcium Milk for Women, Baliwag Transit, Mekeni Food Corporation, Pepsi Cola, Center for Pop Music Philippines, Air Philippines, Maxi Peel, Queensland Catering, Days Hotel, Epiderm-A, Lexber Holidays International, 8 Waves Water Park Resort, Louie Wee, Rommel's Farm Inc., Club Panoly Resort and Mc-Mountain Home Apartelle-Tagaytay. Radio stations are Crossover 105.1, Joey Rhythms 92.3 and City Lite 88.3.



"As [illegible] always [illegible] attrac[illegible] When I [illegible] falling [illegible] styling, I felt alarmed and scared. I followed the advice of other people on how to stop my hair loss but nothing worked. That's [illegible] seriously [illegible] going to Svenson [illegible] treatment [illegible] problem and gave it more volume. It's even easier to style my hair now. Having thicker, healthier hair really enhances my looks!"

Celeste Garcia
Co-manager

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Die-hard fans of the most popular cable TV show on the Disney Channel can now find the latest Kim Possible products in stores this May!

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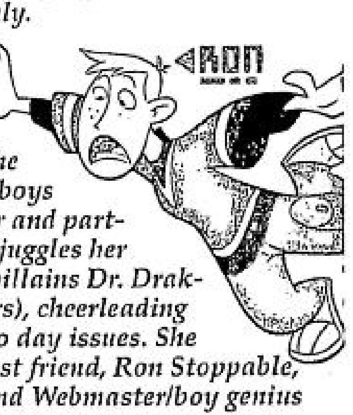
Saving the world is what Kim does on her spare time but dressing up for you boys and girls won't be a challenge with cool shirts, sandals and slippers featuring your characters Kim, Ron, and Rufus. Head back to school with awesome bags and notebooks that will surely make those math tests a breeze! As Ron would say, "It's all gravy baby!"

Of course every crime fighter needs a little break. Cool Kim Possible toys, gadgets and novelty items will be available in July.



"Disney's Kim Possible" is a half-hour animated comedy/action adventure show on the Disney Channel catering to boys and girls. A part-cheerleader and part-crime-fighter, Kim Possible juggles her time between fighting evil-villains Dr. Drakken and Shego (among others), cheerleading practice and handling day to day issues. She gets a little help from her best friend, Ron Stoppable, his naked mole rat Rufus, and Webmaster/boy genius Wade. There's no scroundrel they can't overpower or "sitch" they can't correct.

Kim Possible airs on the Disney Channel Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 6:30 p.m.

Kim Possible Merchandise are now available at leading department stores and bookstores nationwide.

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G1 GLORIETTA 1

1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
4 X-MEN 2

G4 GLORIETTA 4

THE MATRIX RELOADED
THE MATRIX RELOADED
THX GUARANTEED SEATS THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:40 3:30 6:20 9:10 12:00
4 X-MEN 2
5 SO CLOSE
6 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
7 RING 0

GB1 GREENBELT 1

ArtFilm
1 AUTO FOCUS (Exclusive) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
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GB3 GREENBELT 3

THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE MATRIX RELOADED 2:40 5:35 8:30 11:25
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:55 3:50 6:45 9:40
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE HOURS 12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05 10:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 4 HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS 11:50 2:15 4:40 9:40
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED 12:20 3:15 HOW TO LOSE A GUY

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2 HIRAM
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3 DAYO
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2 WALANG KAPALIT
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5 HIRAM
6 SO CLOSE
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8 TILL THERE WAS YOU
9 KIKAY

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2 SO CLOSE
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5 HIRAM

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4 WALANG KAPALIT
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2 HIRAM

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3 HIRAM

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4 DAYO
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9 THE MATRIX RELOADED
10 TILL THERE WAS YOU

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10 HIRAM
11 RING 0
12 DAYO

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3 RING 0
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7 HIRAM
8 DAYO
9 WALANG KAPALIT
10 TILL THERE WAS YOU
11 X-MEN 2
12 ANGHEL SA LUPA

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2 X-MEN 2
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
5 RING 0
6 SO CLOSE
7 DAYO
8 TILL THERE WAS YOU
9 WALANG KAPALIT
10 THE MATRIX RELOADED
11 HIRAM
12 ANGHEL SA LUPA

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2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 RING 0
4 ANGHEL SA LUPA
5 DAYO
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8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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4 RING 0
5 WALANG KAPALIT
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 ANGHEL SA LUPA
8 SO CLOSE
9 DAYO
10 HIRAM

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
3 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
4 PINOCCHIO
5 SOULKEEPER
6 PUNLA
7 WALANG KAPALIT
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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2 CLOSED
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 WALANG KAPALIT
5 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
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7 CLOSED
8 AMAZON

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2 CONFESSION OF A...
3 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...
4 DAYO
5 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
6 WALANG KAPALIT

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2 HOW TO LOSE A GUY ...
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 WALANG KAPALIT

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2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 HIRAM
4 DAYO

SM CITY DAVAO

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2 AMAZON
3 PINOCCHIO
4 SOULKEEPER
5 WALANG KAPALIT
6 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

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2 DAYO
3 WALANG KAPALIT
4 HOW TO LOSE A GUY...

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2 JAILBIRDS
3 WALANG KAPALIT
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Willie Revillame loses 2 big jobs

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IF **WILLIE** Revillame seems to be behaving well since he returned to show biz through the ABS-CBN show, "Willingly Yours," credit should go to his new talent manager, **Wyngard Tracy**.

Willie's two ABS-CBN shows, "Willingly Yours" and "MTB," have been doing well. But Willie has also lost two important projects.

He was supposed to star in a new movie from Viva Films, with the working title "Hot Balls," also starring the Viva Hot Babes. But he was reportedly replaced by veteran comedian **Joey de Leon**, one of the hosts of "MTB" rival "Eat Bulaga."

Willie also lost the chance to be the endorser of Breeze detergent, which sponsors a segment on "MTB (Masayang Tanghali Bayan)." A reliable source said Breeze management had wanted to hire Willie to be the product's overall endorser, and the contract would include a TV commercial.

Maricel talks about sons

DIAMOND Star **Maricel Soriano** values the friendships she has built through the years in show biz. For love of her friend and former "Kaluskos Musmos" co-star, **Maila Gumila**, Maricel has agreed to guest on "Coffee Talk" this weekend. Maila now directs the weekly lifestyle show hosted by **Cheri Mercado** on ANC.

Many thirtysomething people will remember that Maricel and Maila first worked together in "Kaluskos Musmos," the hit kiddie show in the late '70s, where Maria played the tomboyish Jacklyn Pusit (granddaughter of **Chichay**'s character, Lola Farrah Pusit) and Maila was the rich but clueless Mercedes de Brazo.

The two women have remained close pals and worked together in several movies like **Chito Roño**'s critically acclaimed "Dahas" and **Jerry Sineneng**'s "Soltera."

When Maila decided to shift gears and work behind the camera, Maricel was one of the first people she informed.

"She was very happy for me especially because she knew it was my dream to direct even when we were still kids," says Maila.

On "Coffee Talk" tomorrow, a laidback and jovial Maria gamely answers host Cheri's questions on life's simple pleasures, her parenting style, interests outside of show biz and the lessons she has learned from being in the entertainment business for 31 years.

Maricel's son **Marron** is studying in a military school in North Carolina. **Sebastien**, or **Tien-Tien**, is in grade school at the Ateneo.

GIRL BONDING. Maricel Soriano (right) is directed by friend Maila Gumila (center) on "Coffee Talk," hosted by Cheri Mercado.

"SANIB" STAR. Carlo Muñoz.

"Marron was promoted in just three months," Maricel reports, adding that the teener also works part-time, "*kaya siya na raw ang magbabayad ng* phone calls *niya sa akin*."

In between takes, Maricel and Maila had a ball recalling their antics during their days as child actors, such as skateboarding through the corridors of KBS (now RPN 9) during breaks in tapings for "Kaluskos Musmos." They also recalled the evening they had dinner with President Marcos in Malacañang.

"Imagine, we were still in grade school and we were already eating at the same dinner table as the President and the first family?" says Maricel. "*Kaya* unforgettable *talaga sa akin yang Kaluskos*."

The kiddie sitcom also starred **Herbert Bautista**, **Dranreb Belleza**, **Sharon Manabat** (now a lawyer) and **Jayboy Samson**.

"We're still in touch," Maricel says of her co-stars. "We see each other every now and then, just to catch up."

"Coffee Talk" producer **Anjie Ureta** says the usually calm and poised Cheri was "starstruck" during the interview.

"It was actually Maricel who was making Cheri feel at ease during the taping," Anjie laughs. "*Aminado si* Cheri that she watched Maricel's TV shows and movies when she was a girl, *kaya medyo kinabahan siya*. But they both had fun during the interview."

At one point, Cheri used the word "veteran" to describe the 37-year-old Maricel, and the actress said in mock disagreement: "*Ay, ayaw ko yata ng* veteran, *ha? Parang pang-matanda! Di ko* feel *'yan*." But she followed it up with a guffaw and proceeded to answer the question.

"Coffee Talk" airs 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, on ANC (SkyCable 21 and Home Cable 32).

Celso Kid's horror

AFTER making a comeback through "Nympha," the **Maricar de Mesa** sex-drama shown early this year, **Celso Ad Castillo** directs Regal Entertainment's horror flick, "Sanib."

Starring in "Sanib" is screen siren **Aubrey Miles**, who recently headlined **Mel Chionglo**'s controversial sex film, "Xerex." With her are **Raymond Bagatsing**, **Gina Alajar**, **Joel Torre**, **Ana Capri**, **Carlo Muñoz**, **Isabella de Leon** and **Dindin Llarena**.

Aubrey plays a young bride who becomes possessed by the spirit of her long-dead half-sister. Raymond plays a priest who perform an exorcism even as he fights his personal demons.

Regal has produced popular horror films like the "Shake, Rattle and Roll" trilogy, "Spirit Warriors," "Sa Piling ng Aswang," "Bahay ni Lola," "Singsing ni Lola" and many others.

The line "Anak ni Janice!" is from Regal's "Tiyanak."

"Sanib" is one of the six official entries in the Manila Film Festival, which starts June 11.

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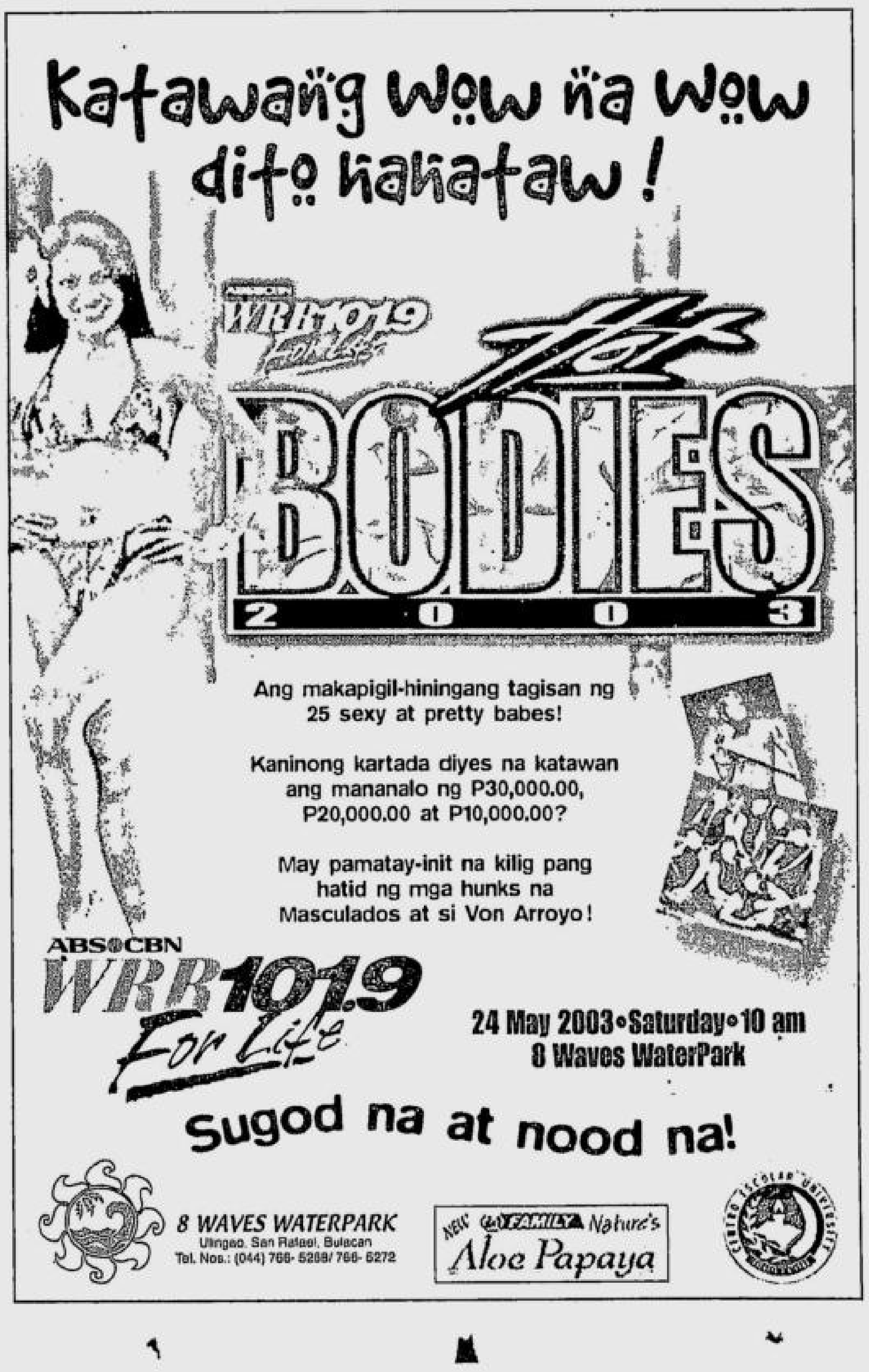

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From page C8

making movies."

But she is most proud of her TV career.

"I realized you're only good as your last show," she allows. "I studied my craft. I went to the studio early and made sure I talked even to the little people behind the scene."

From "Eat Bulaga," Chiqui moved to the rival program on Channel 7, "Student Canteen," which eventually became "Lunch Date." When Jeanne Young left the game show, "Spin-A-Win," Chiqui took over as host.

Even after she left show business, Chiqui maintained her Chiqui Hollman Fashion Studio, a familiar sight along Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City. But that closed shop after a time.

Moving on

Today, with her two kids grown up, Chiqui refuses to be idle. After her mother died in 2001, Chiqui was inspired by a friend, Dita Sandico-Ong, to try a new hobby—making jewelry out of beads and stones. It helped Chiqui get over the loss of her mother.

"I didn't know if I was coming or going after my mom died," she says. "I took care of her for three years when she was sick. She was having dialysis five times a day. But I learned to pick up the pieces and move on.

"I'm lucky to have a wonderful husband, who said it is a privilege to take care of your parent. So whatever ambitions I had then, I put them on hold. I have no regrets. God gave me strength to do what I had to do. I was like on automatic pilot."

BEADS AND PIECES of Chiqui's creativity are sold in a boutique in Mandaluyong.

Eventually, Chiqui turned jewelry-making into a business. Her jewelry is now sold in a boutique on the second floor of Morita's Restaurant (631-9620).

"I get the beads from Nepal, India, China, US and even Divisoria," Chiqui says. "Either I go myself or I ask friends who go there to buy them for me. I also have suppliers."

Hand-holding

Chiqui is also a wedding planner. The December 2002 wedding of Jamby Madrigal and French gentry Eric Jean-Claude Dudoignon-Valade at the sprawling Madrigal farm in Quinta de Lucsuhin in Calatagan, Batangas, was Chiqui's work. For 30 days, she was "Jamby Junior" as she prepared for a grand wedding with 800 guests. There were no hitches.

Chiqui even took care of choosing the gifts for the bridal registry. Some guests flew in from France and Chiqui put them in Batangas vacation houses and later sent them to Boracay.

"Mine is more of a hand-holding program with the bride," Chiqui offers. "I plan with you, laugh with you, cry with you, panic with you. It's like being a sister to the one who's getting married to make sure everything will turn out smooth and wonderful."

Chiqui also does personality development training programs for private corporations.

"I design specific programs for the companies," she grants. "What the client wants, the client gets."

200 kinds of rice

Occasionally, she does pro bono work, like when she joins Ricky Reyes in the beauty specialist's outreach program in Metro Manila and the provinces.

"If I can touch one person's life and I can teach a woman to love herself, I'll be more than happy," Chiqui says. "I don't have money to give, so I devote time to training people for free."

Two years ago, Ricky convinced Chiqui to come out of her "retirement" and return to TV. On Ricky's weekly show, "Beauty Plus" on RPN 9, Chiqui hosted the "Lifestyle, Home and Garden" segment, featuring celebrity homes and sharing tips on being a happy homemaker.

"I learned a lot from my segment," Chiqui asserts. "I used to think there were only 20 varieties of rice, but when I featured the restaurant of Mina Gabor, I found out there are more than 200!

"People also opened their homes to me and I saw the other side of the celebrities."

Hypothyroidism

Chiqui the mom used to drive Chia to UP High for the girl's 8 a.m. class. She also cooks for her kids. Chia says her mom's lasagna, with six different cheeses, pesto, walnuts and bacon is "to die for."

Chiqui has gained weight since she stepped out of the limelight. She has to battle hypothyroidism, which makes it difficult for her to shed those excess pounds.

"*Sabi nga ng* daughter *ko, huminga lang daw ako,* I would easily gain weight," Chiqui says.

The former TV host breeds dogs, too. In the morning, she walks her Boston terrier, her Labrador or her Chihuahua.

What else does she want to do?

"I want to drive my Jaguar," she retorts. "The problem is, I don't have one."

DID YOU KNOW...

When PBA cager **Don Allado** is not seeing action on the hardcourt, he can be found hanging out with current girlfriend, "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga" cast member **Maricar de Mesa**, at the malls. Just recently, the two lovey-doveys were seen having sandwiches at Oliver's at the Power Plant Mall in Makati City, together with Don's Alaska Milk teammates.

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SO CLOSE **R13** 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	**THE HOURS** **R13** 12:00,2:25,4:50, 7:15,9:40	**HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS** **P13** 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15

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CINEMA 2 **HOW TO LOSE A GUY** 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40 **PG-13**

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MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

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NINA MEGA AT GOMA

Sharon Cuneta Richard Gomez
Walang Kapalit
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Directed by JOEL C. LAMANGAN dgpi VIVA
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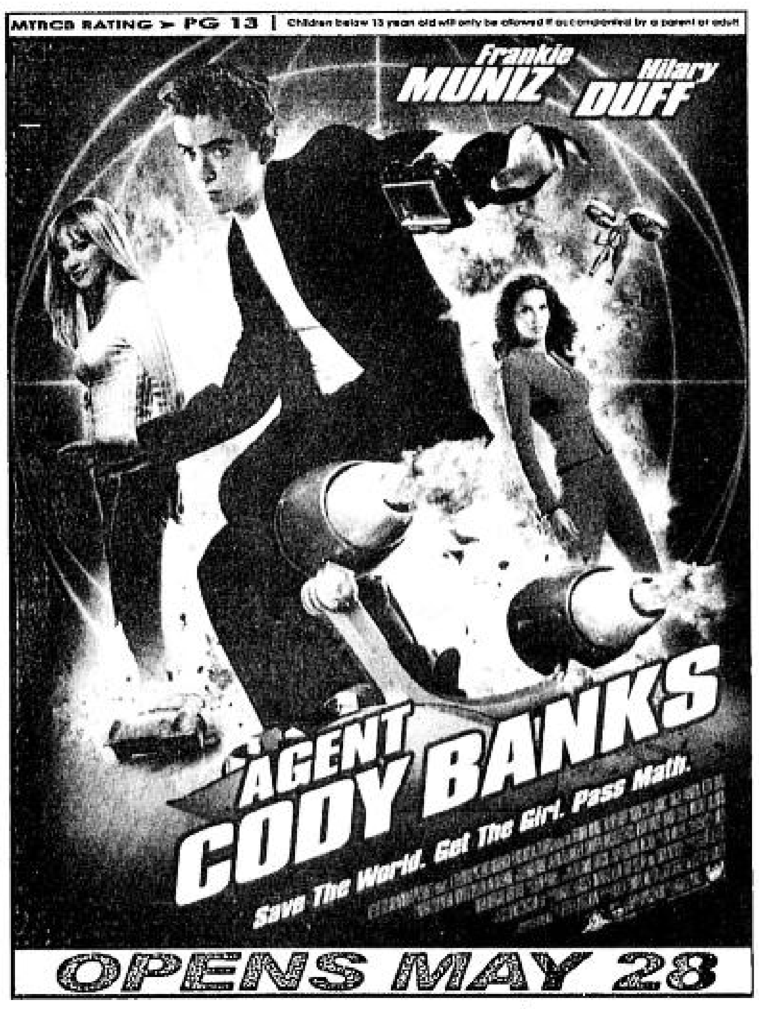

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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OPENS MAY 28

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	ANGHEL SA LUPA
Ali 2	DAYO
Ali 3	SO CLOSE
Ali 4	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 5	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 6	WALANG KAPALIT
Ali 7	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS
ARANETA COLISEUM	
MAY 25	PBA GAMES
MAY 26 & 28	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAY 31	PBA FANS DAY
JUNE 14	MARTIN & REGINE CONCERT
JUNE 16 18 20	WORLD SLASHER CUP

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HIRAM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	HIRAM
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DAYO
B	HIRAM
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(601-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DAYO
CINEMA-2	ANGHEL SA LUPA
CINEMA-3	HIRAM
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-6	KIKAY
CINEMA-7	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-8	XEREX
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SO CLOSE
CINEMA-12	HOW TO LOSE A GUY
CINEMA-14	RING 0
CINEMA-15	WALANG KAPALIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA 2	MATRIX RELOADED
CINEMA 3	FINAL DESTINATION 2
CINEMA 4	NATIONAL SECURITY
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

OPENS JUNE 4 AT ArtFilm
AYALA CINEMAS
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

Getting the alias was half the battle.
Surviving it is the other.
WHO IS
CLETIS TOUT?
CHRISTIAN SLATER, RICHARD DREYFUSS,
PORTIA DE ROSSI & TIM ALLEN

A prison escapee (Slater) assumes the identity of a deceased man named Cletis Tout, but soon discovers that someone had a contract out on Cletis' life, so now the escapee has to deal with not only the police, but a hitman (Allen) as well.

"A gem of a romantic crime comedy that turns out to be clever, amusing and unpredictable."
-- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

MTRCB ▶ R-13

Looks can be deceiving.
Karen Mok Shu Qi Zhao Wei
夕陽天使
so close
www.so-close.com

Strictly for 13 years of age and up

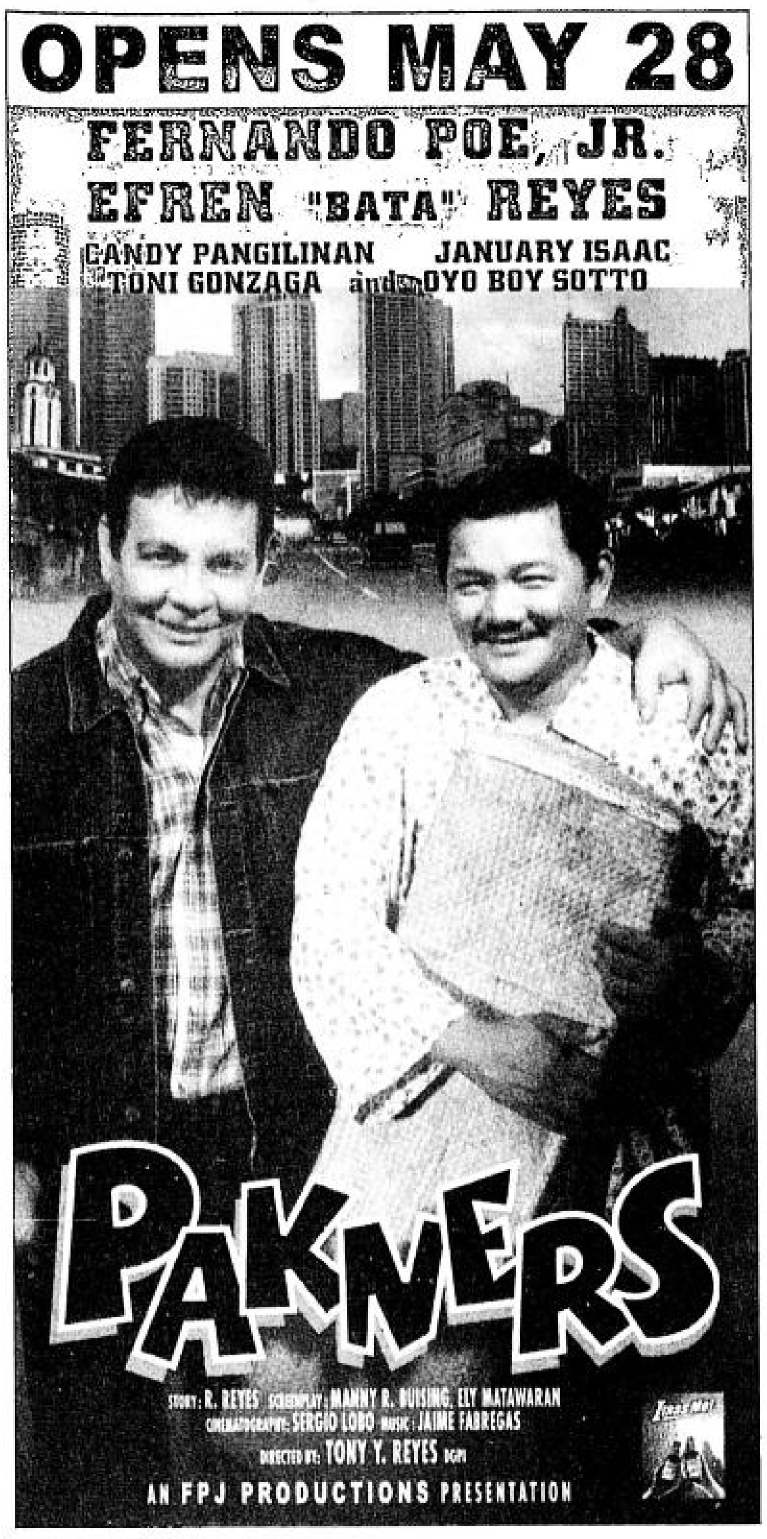
Sexy Asian angels display amazing martial arts techniques in 'So Close'

Lynn (Shu Qi) and Sue (Zhao Wei) are sexy and beautiful sisters whose parents were brutally killed by powerful underworld figures. Disillusioned with the law and armed with amazing computer and kung fu skills (not to mention an enviable fashion style), the seductive sisters become professional assassins, killing criminals for other criminals.

Gutsy and brilliant female cop Yat Hong (Karen Mok) relentlessly pursue the sisters, who are in turn fascinated by their tough adversary.

SO CLOSE, starring Asia's most alluring and talented young actresses, features the coolest, breath-taking martial arts sequences from world-renowned director Cory Yuen, Jet Li's martial arts choreographer in THE ONE, KISS OF THE DRAGON and ROMEO MUST DIE. Don't miss it!

NOW SHOWING


OPENS MAY 28
FERNANDO POE, JR.
EFREN "BATA" REYES
CANDY PANGILINAN JANUARY ISAAC
TONI GONZAGA and OYO BOY SOTTO
PAKNERS
STORY: R. REYES SCREENPLAY: MANNY R. BUISING, ELY MATAWARAN
CINEMATOGRAPHY: SERGIO LOBO MUSIC: JAIME FABREGAS
DIRECTED BY: TONY Y. REYES
AN FPJ PRODUCTIONS PRESENTATION

Hard-core porn classic withdrawn ...

From page C1

earlier screened "Behind the Green Door" gave the movie an R-18 rating and approved its release without any deletions.

But Aguila's group that watched the movie at Centerpoint found at least five sex scenes that were not in the copy that Roy Chua of Gold Films had sent to the MTRCB for screening.

The scenes showed a male actor's private parts as well as Chambers in prolonged love making scenes, according to the censors.

"Fortunately we were able to pull it out from theaters before it could be exhibited in the provinces," Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment.

The pullout, however, was done also on Wednesday, the movie's last screening day.

The MTRCB chief said she is scheduled to meet with Chua of Gold Films next week.

Chua could face a minimum of six months suspension of the permit to exhibit films if it would be proved that Gold Films had inserted unauthorized sex scenes in "Behind the Green Door."

Last week, the MTRCB ordered that El Niño Films' "Kikay" be withdrawn from theaters due to illegal insertions.

El Niño Films president Milagros Pascual last week countered by filing charges of abuse of discretion against the MTRCB before the Manila Regional Trial Court.

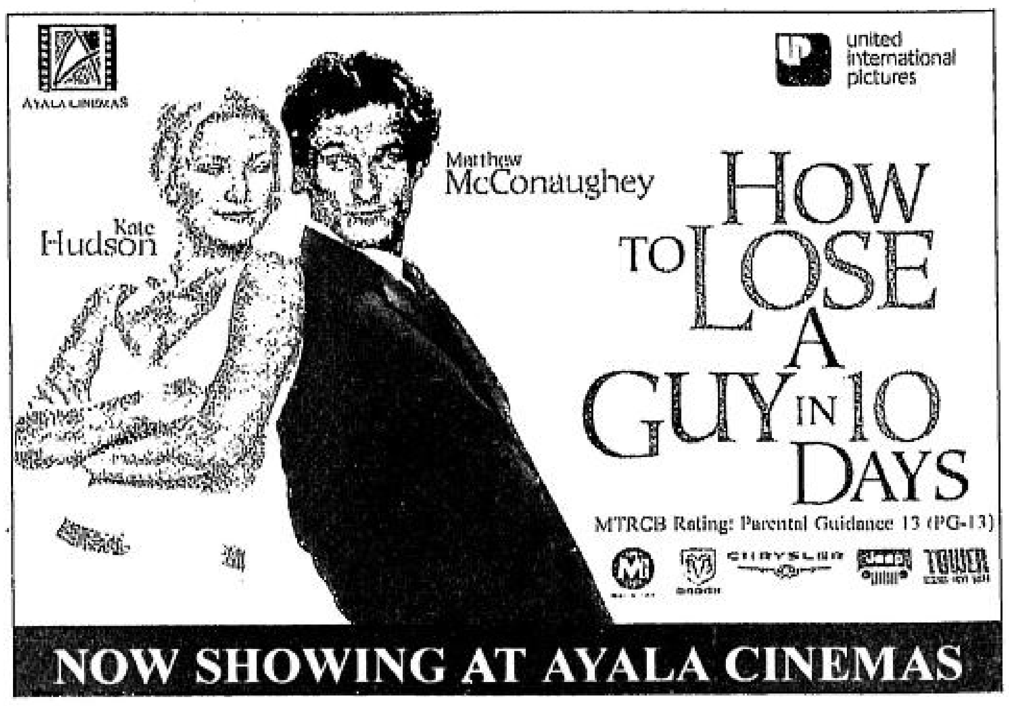
According to Laguardia, Pascual last Monday withdrew the civil case and agreed to a settlement.

"This only proves that El Niño Films is recognizing the authority of the MTRCB to penalize it," Laguardia said.

Pascual had admitted to the insertions and agreed to pay a fine, the amount of which was "only minimal," the chief of censors said.

Laguardia added that Pascual has submitted a "new and sanitized version" of "Kikay" and requested another week-long exhibition in theaters.

"El Niño Films also agreed to a one-year suspension of its permit to exhibit films in the event that objectionable and unauthorized insertions are found in their future films," Laguardia said.


AYALA CINEMAS
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Kate Hudson
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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
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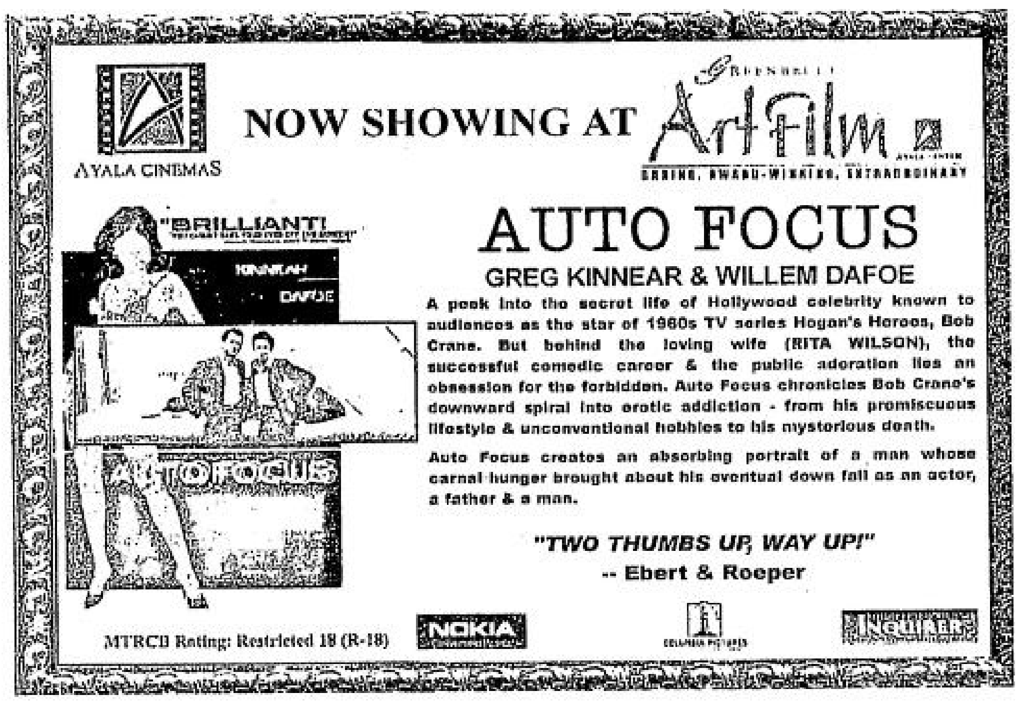
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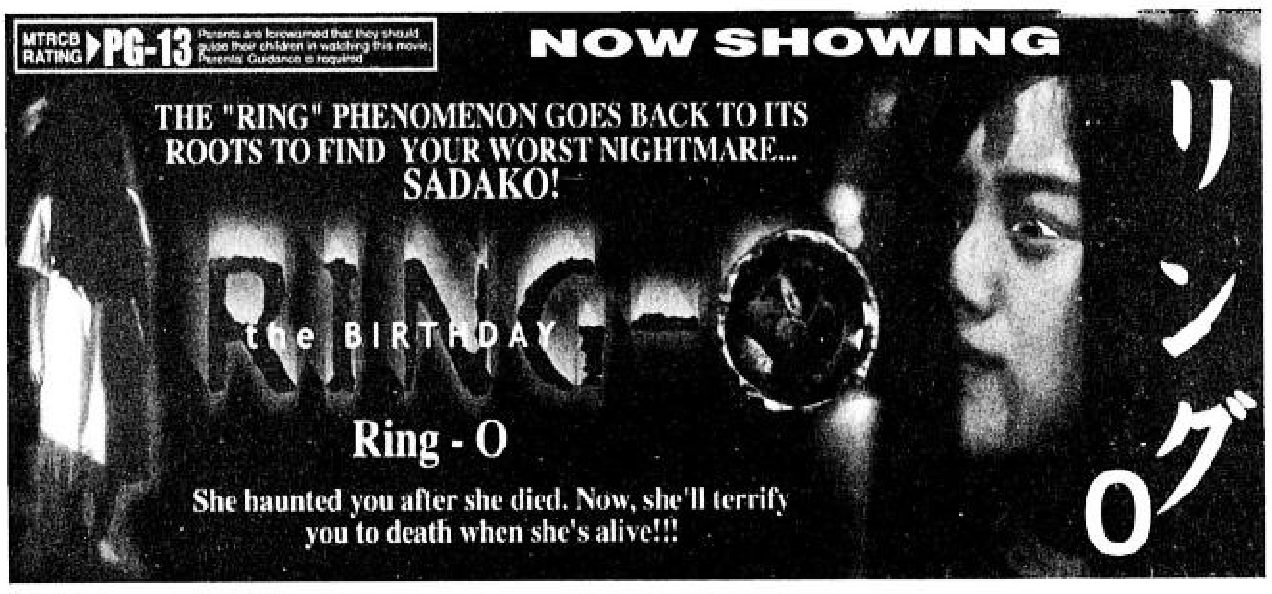
"BRILLIANT!"
AUTO FOCUS
GREG KINNEAR & WILLEM DAFOE
A peek into the secret life of Hollywood celebrity known to audiences as the star of 1960s TV series Hogan's Heroes, Bob Crane. But behind the loving wife (RITA WILSON), the successful comedic career & the public adoration lies an obsession for the forbidden. Auto Focus chronicles Bob Crane's downward spiral into erotic addiction - from his promiscuous lifestyle & unconventional hobbies to his mysterious death.
Auto Focus creates an absorbing portrait of a man whose carnal hunger brought about his eventual down fall as an actor, a father & a man.
"TWO THUMBS UP, WAY UP!"
-- Ebert & Roeper
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
NOKIA
COLUMBIA PICTURES
INQUIRER


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Parents are forewarned that they should guide their children in watching this movie. Parental Guidance is required
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She haunted you after she died. Now, she'll terrify you to death when she's alive!!!
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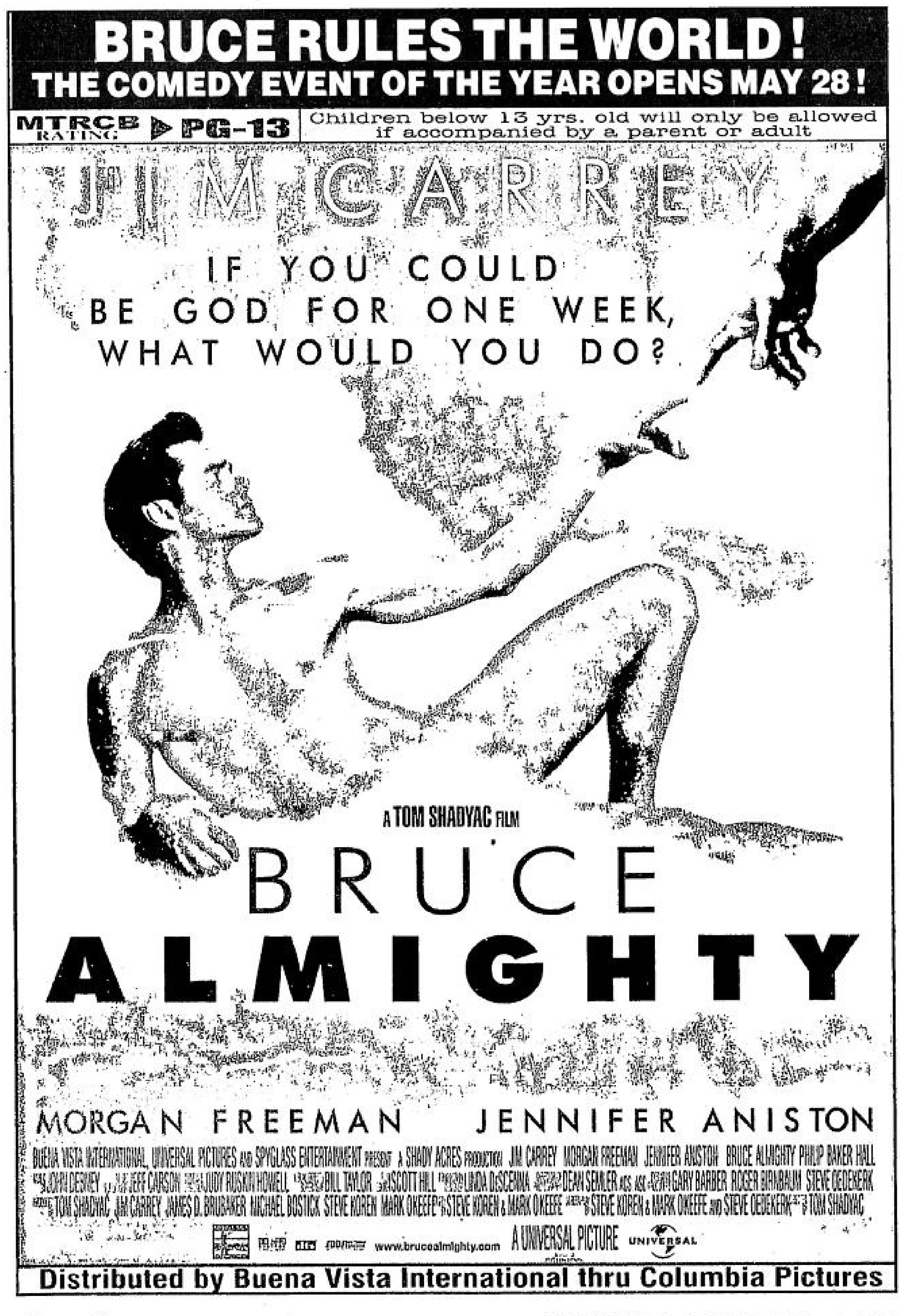
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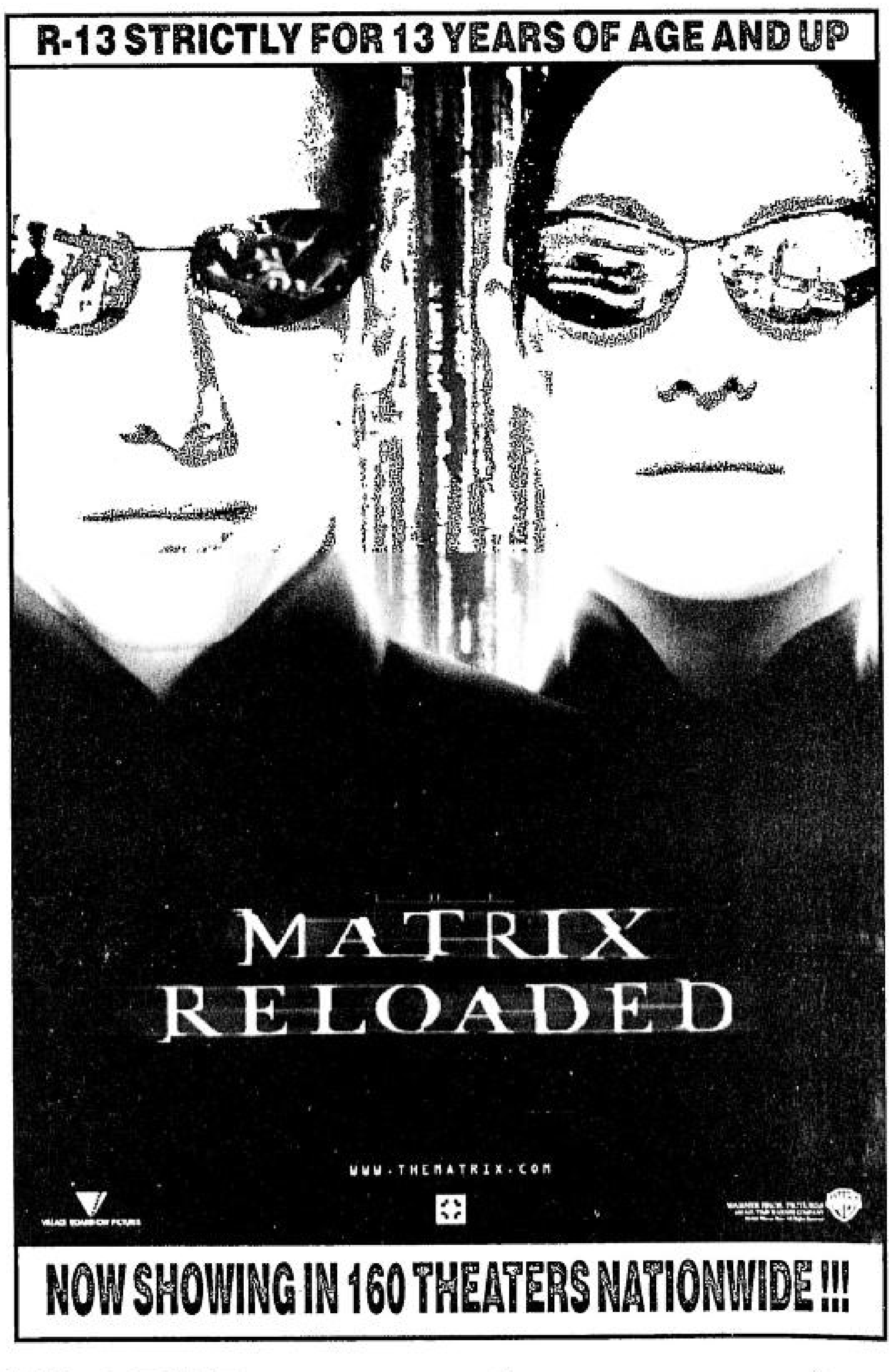
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'Double L, Double N'

CHIQUI the TV host in the '80s.

FILE PHOTO

By Leah Salterio

CHIQUI Hollmann-Yulo's daughter was only 2 when Chiqui left show business in 1988. So today, the girl, now a pretty 17-year-old, is clueless as to what, or who, "Double L, Double N" refers to.

"Double L, Double N" refers to the spelling of the name of Chia's mom, Chiqui Hollmann. It was how the "Eat Bulaga" trio of Tito, Vic and Joey introduced the former Baron Travel Girl, who became a household name when she became a co-host of the popular noontime show.

Chiqui Hollmann-Yulo is still as pretty, if a bit heavier, as when she was on noontime TV. When told that "Eat Bulaga" will mark its 25th anniversary next year, she exclaims, "My gosh, that's how long it has been?"

YESTERDAY

Many loyal viewers of "Eat Bulaga" will still remember the articulate, stylish Chiqui with her raised collar and her Ricky Reyes-styled, wavy cropped hair dyed light brown.

Chiqui bowed out of the limelight after she married businessman Prandy Yulo.

"Things and priorities change and you have to make a decision," says Chiqui. "It was initially hard when I left show biz because I was earning my own money. But the kids were growing up and I didn't want to be away from them."

WORKING MOM. Daughter Chia, 17, says Chiqui's lasagna is "to die for." RANDY HORMILLOSA

More flexible

The Yulos moved to New York, but later decided to return to Manila.

No regrets, Chiqui says. "I always see the good things in life. If bad things happen unexpectedly, you learn from them. I have made both wonderful and stupid choices. But I've learned to live with them, learn from them and grow.

"I have learned to become more flexible. I realized things don't always happen the way you want them, but you just make the most of what you have with your talents, skills and God-given opportunities."

Chiqui and Prandy have two children, Chia and Chino. Chia is short for Marie Helene, after her mom, who is Helen Marie. Chia, a new graduate of the University of the Philippines High School, will be a freshman at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP).

Chino is 20 and is a 4th year entrepreneurial management major also at UAP.

Over lunch at Morita's Restaurant owned by her aunt Helen Roces (Pioneer corner Sheridan in Mandaluyong), Chiqui recalls her show biz stint with fondness.

P500 a week

In the late '70s, she came from New York, where she lived for 16 years and took a degree in fashion merchandising and marketing from the New York School of Interior Design. In Manila, she was hired as a Rustan's manager, until a friend asked her to do a sideline as one of Ariel Ureta's "promo girls" on TV's "For the Boys."

"All I did in that show," says Chiqui, "was pose with the prize to be given away that day and tell the viewers before every commercial break, 'We'll be right back, don't go away.' I earned P500 every week. At that time, that amount was big."

In 1979, TV producer Tony Tuviera spotted her and asked Ariel and "For the Boys" director Johnny Manahan if he could get Chiqui to host "Eat Bulaga" with Tito, Vic and Joey.

Chiqui does not hide her short-lived romance with Vic Sotto.

"It was a very good love team that brought in lots of money for the show and made a lot of people happy," she says. "Two years ago, I hosted a show in Hong Kong with Arnel Ignacio and some Filipino domestic helpers were looking for Vic. They were shrieking and screaming when they saw me and I was so surprised by their reaction. I told them Vic and I are both fine, *pero may kanya-kanya na kaming pamilya at anak.*"

Out of 'Eat'

Chiqui also ventured into the movies.

"I did forgettable movies," she admits. "But I didn't know I could earn that much from

DOUBLE/ C6

NO REGRETS, says Chiqui.

Beasts and monsters are set loose at the 4D Discovery Theatre.

Get grabbed by the 3D imagery. Sense every tremor. Shiver as chilly mist strokes your face. And feel creatures of darkness against your legs. Only at Enchanted Kingdom. Where movie watching is brought to a new dimension.
Now showing the thriller Escape from Bane Manor.

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Rosa Rosal and Lucy Torres-Gomez swear Bench is forever

p. G1

LIFESTYLE
Trend Spotting

For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

My fall from fabulousness

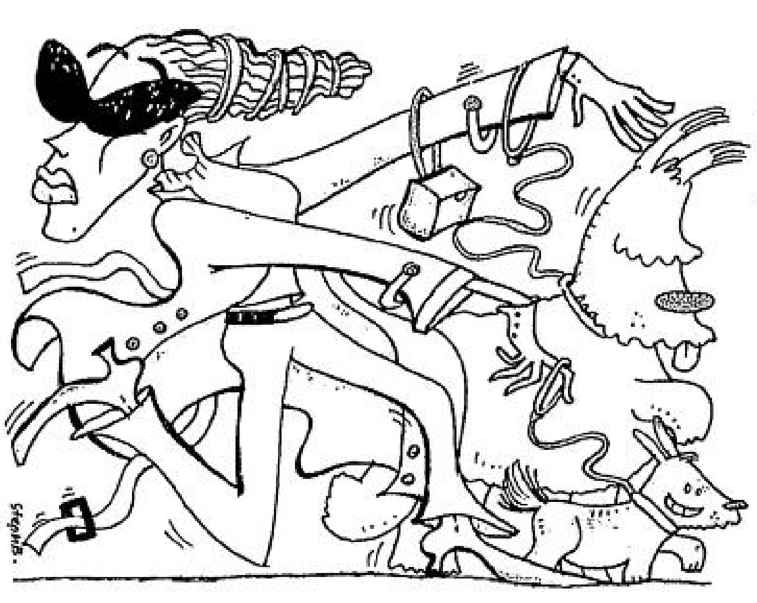

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

A fashionista turned expatriate housewife records her fall from grace and her defiant stand to stick to fashion brands no matter the house chores

By Kitty Go
Contributor

IN MY former job as a fashion editor and publisher, I used to get dressed for every opening, including that of a can of dog food. I literally would be in a jersey Catherine Malandrino dress and Christian Louboutin shoes feeding my dogs before an evening of endless and sometimes terribly boring events that would not change the world, and certainly not my body type.

Like all good things, those days had to end, but I never thought I would end up at the vet in a bloody (as in blood for the animal Red Cross) Chloe T-shirt, Mosaic jeans and Jimmy Choos. More on that later.

Although I got my wish to become a housewife, I never denied being high-maintenance. Logic tells me I cannot be sashaying around the Costco wholesale warehouse in billowing, red Isabel Marant chiffon and stiletto gladiator Manolos carrying a drum of detergent the size of an oil barrel. What am I going to do in a Calvin Klein silk evening gown if the only entrance I am making is into the kitchen to mop the floor?

MY FALL/ D6

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ICONS

SUPERMAN01 BATMAN01 WW01 FLASH01 GL01 JUSTICE15 JUSTICE14 WW02 JUSTICE12 FLASH02

RING TONES

Song Title	Artist	keyword
BATMAN (ANIMATED)	Batman Theme	batman
SUPERMAN	Five For Fighting	superman
SAVE THE WORLD	WCM Sweden	save
BATMAN (MAIN THEME)	Batman Theme	batmanth
WONDER WOMAN	Wonder Woman Theme	wndrwman
I DO	Better Than Ezra	idoezra
THE WAY IT IS	Bruce Hornsby	wayitis
CAUGHT IN THE SUN	Course Of Nature	caughtin
STANDING STILL	Jewel	standstl
PERFECT MEMORY	Remy Zero	perfectm
SAVE ME	Remy Zero	savemerz
WHEN I'M WITH YOU	Simple Plan	whenmwu
PACIFIC COAST PARTY	Smash Mouth	coastpar
UP ALL NIGHT	Unwritten Law	upallnit
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KISS FROM A ROSE	Seal	kissrose

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2-day fashion and lifestyle fest

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall and Team Eventures, in cooperation with Lipton, present Fashion Frenzy, a two-day celebration of fashion and lifestyle, May 23-24, Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Beauty and style booths like Avon Colors will provide make-over.

Skin care consultations will be available from Godiva. Mall-goers likewise get free Internet access from PLDT Vibe.

The event's centerpiece is a two-day fashion show featuring the best of today's local and foreign brands.

Day 1 will showcase casuals and formals from U2, British India and Mico while top designers Malu Veloso, Edward Teng and designer brand Bergamo will display the latest of their wedding collection.

The second day will feature casual attires from Topshop, Dickies, M Big Men and Puma. Designer Mario Colmenares will unveil his formal creations while Chicco and Queen Alice will present the latest in kids' style.

Directing both shows is Arnold Galang. Showtime is 5-8 p.m.

Admission is free. Call 633-7851.

UP high school class '68 presents concert for a cause

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines High School Class of 1968 will present "Happy Together!," featuring the Spirit of 67, in a benefit concert for the University of the Philippines Integrated School (UPIS) on June 6, 7:30 p.m. at UP Bahay ng Alumni. Call 687-4692.

ST. JOSEPH'S Academy High School Batch '79 will hold a grand reunion on May 31, 5 p.m. at Philamlife Village Social Hall, Las Piñas City. Call Lourdes Bacos-Quitevis at 873-0390, Cherry Gabat-Agco at 0918-922-5347 and Dr. Celi Arreza at 0917-812-1277.

GOINGS ON

FLORES DE MAYO. Canyon Woods Residential Resort in Laurel, Batangas, will hold "Flores de Mayo," tomorrow at 6 p.m. from the Holy Name of Jesus Chapel to the Clubhouse. Homeowners will dress up their children as *sagalas* and angels.

LECTURE. Arts Unlimited recently held a lecture-get-together with visual artist and educator Araceli Dans. Dans, who is acclaimed here and abroad for her paintings of intricate Filipino lacework, spoke about her effective meshing of motherhood with career. Ladies interested in forthcoming activities may call 813-9056.

SEMINAR. A Career counseling seminar and workshop will be conducted on May 31, 2:30-5 p.m., at Acceed Center of the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City. Titled "Beyond Horizons," the workshop has been organized by the International Education Specialists of Makati (Inter-Ed). The seminar is open to all high school undergrads and college students who are uncertain about their courses and careers. Call 819-1001/02.

CAR SHOW. Davao City is looking forward to the formal blessing and car show of Motor City, the country's pioneer one-stop automotive complex on May 23. You will find under one roof all brands of quality used cars as well as car accessories, auto detailing, insurance, driving school and car wash. Call 082-297-0339.

ANNIVERSARY. As part of The Wedding Store's 10th year anniversary this year, a series of special events will be held starting with "Ten: The Symposium" today. The Wedding Store will also hold a three-day bridal exhibit dubbed "Ten: The Bridal Event" on June 6-8. Call 893-0534, 840-1897 or e-mail giftcraft@pworld.net.ph.

SALE. Jag Jeans holds its SM lobby sale until June 9.
Enjoy up to 50 percent discount on all Jag items—from classic Jag style and the hip Jag Thug and Lady Thug to Jag Kids collection.

PROMO. Shop at Lee and Lee Pipes and double your chances to win one of the 50 Nokia 7250 to be given away at SM teen sale ongoing until May 31 at all participating SM Malls. Raffle draw is on June 11, 3 p.m., at SM Corporate Office.

PARTY. Streetlife Remix throws a wild, week-long party on May 26-31, highlighted by an '80s-themed affair hosted by Shaan Bermudez. On May 28, Streetlife and Cosmopolitan Magazine will launch its Ladies Night Wednesdays. Consecutively, the Men's Night Thursdays will be launched on May 29.

Get a loan at 0 percent interest

CITIBANK Installment Loan gives you the final chance to kiss your financial worries away and enjoy 0 percent interest for the first three months of your loan.

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And with waived processing fees of P750, this is indeed the best time to get a Citibank Installment Loan.

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P20,000.00 CASH
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100 Winners Sterling Gift Packs worth P1,000.00
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How to Join:

1. A minimum Php 300.00 worth of single-transaction purchase of Sterling and/or Avanti notebooks / binders / refills entitles you to join the raffle.
2. To join, simply fill out the Raffle Coupon with required information and affix signature.
3. Drop your entries in designated drop boxes at your suki store nationwide or mail your raffle stub to:
"Sterling and Avanti Notebooks' Drive Your Way to School"
Sterling Paper Products Ent. Inc.
111 Lapu-lapu St., Kalookan City 1400

Prizes:

4. Prizes are the following:

Prizes :	Raffle Winner	Suki Store
Grand Prize	One Isuzu HI-LANDER CROSSWIND XT	One Isuzu HI-LANDER CROSSWIND XT
2nd Prize	20 Winners of 1 Intel Celeron Computer Unit w/ Printer	
3rd Prize	20 Winners of P20,000 cash	
4th Prize	20 Winners of Nokia 3530	
5th Prize	100 Winners of Sterling Gift packs worth P1000 each	
Consolation Prize	250 Winners of Olympia calculators	

5. Only entries received until August 15, 2003 will be included in the raffle which will be held on August 28, 2003 at 10:00 am at Sterling Place, 2302 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.
6. Promo good for all Sterling and Avanti notebook retailers nationwide.

Claiming of Prizes:

7. All winners will be notified via registered mail.
8. To claim the prizes, winner must present claim stub, any valid ID and the registered notice coming from Sterling Paper Products Ent., Inc. Winners can claim their prizes at Sterling Paper Products Ent., Inc., 111 Lapu-lapu St., Kalookan City. Gift pack and consolation prize winners can claim their prize at the store where the purchase was made.
9. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days upon receipt of notification will be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
10. All prizes except the 3rd prize are not convertible to cash. All prizes are non-transferable.
11. You can only win once. The prize with the higher value shall be given to the winner in case his/her name is drawn more than once.
12. Incapacitated or winners below 18 years of age must bring along their parent or guardian exercising parental authority over the winner to claim prize on his/her behalf. The parent or guardian must present a proof of relationship to the winner.
13. 20% tax on prizes exceeding P10,000 shall be shouldered by the winner.
14. In case of disputes, Sterling Paper's decision, in concurrence with DTI is deemed final. Sterling reserves the right to publish any winner's name, address and photo without further compensation to the winner.
15. Employees of Sterling Paper Group of Companies, its affiliate companies, their advertising agencies and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified to join this promo.

PROMO PERIOD: APRIL 15 - JULY 31, 2003

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0409 series of 2003

LOONEY TUNES • SNOOPY • SESAME STREET • Doraemon • DRAGON BALL Z • TarePanda

Perfection season for VMV Hypoallergenics

An elaborate skin-care line need not be confusing. Here's a guide to the thicket

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

VMV Hypoallergenic focuses on achieving perfect skin through its advanced treatment product lines, according to its newsletter. I confess to being one of those people who are confused by the wide selection. I have often hesitated in the past to try and recommend some of the products, as some functions tend to overlap.

Last week I featured the VMV ID line for shaving and acne care for men and women. Today I will tackle two other star products.

The newsletter points out what product will help you according to your most pressing skin ailment.

Let me familiarize you with the codes. Primary function or PF is the specific treatment of skin problem. The secondary function or SF is the secondary benefit that the treatment provides and support or S is the minor benefit.

Application order is as follows for all: cleanser (C), toner/astringent (T/A), treatment (Tr), moisturizer for evening and/or sun protection for day (M p.m. and M a.m.).

Glykeros Glycolic Acid-Micro-Peel system is the top of the line anti-aging treatment. Micropeel exfoliates your skin without the unsightly look of big portions of your skin flaking off and interfering with the finish of makeup.

I noticed a difference in skin texture overnight, as it was a lot smoother to the touch.

PF deals with wrinkles and fine lines, restores elasticity and firmness, and makes skin texture softer, smoother and more radiant. SF eliminates acne, bumps and folliculitis (chicken skin), evens out skin tone and minimizes pore size. S lightens the skin and fades freckles and melasma.

The line consists of: C-G pH adjusted cream cleanser with pumice for all skin types. T/A nothing specific as treatment will depend on individual's skin type.

Dry skin should use Superskin 1; normal or combination skin uses Superskin 2; and oily to acne-prone can use Superskin 3 Pore Minimizer. (Note: Avoid eye area and nostrils.)

Tr- GC 5 is for those needing minor exfoliation and for first-time users.

GC10 is for those who have adjusted to GC5 and needing major exfoliation because of more advanced signs of aging. Apply on face, neck and chest.

G Opsys Eye Cream hydrates without you feeling greasy and causing breakouts on eye area. I noticed a significant lightening of under-eye-circles.

For M a.m.- G pH adjusted face cover has SPF 30 and is not greasy. It lightens complexion and prevents photo damage.

For M p.m.-G pH adjusted moisturizer may be applied any time of the day even under face cover or whenever your face feels dry as a result of the micro-peel.

Illuminants Skin Lightening exfoliates to allow the Kojic acid, the main whitening ingredient, to penetrate better. Its purpose is not to whiten the skin but to even out the complexion and reverse sun damage. The Kojic acid inhibits melanin production so no skin darkening and discoloration will occur.

The PF- Skin Lightening gives the skin a natural glow and eliminates hyper-pigmentation, freckles and melasma.

The SF eliminates mild acne, bumps and folliculitis, diminishes wrinkles and fine lines, contributes to skin's elasticity and firmness, minimizes pore size and improves skin softness and smoothness.

Steps. Follow after cleansing and toning with Glykeros. Those with oily to acne-prone skin may use ID cleanser/shaving cream or cleanser with pumice grains followed by ID toner/aftershave instead.

Illuminants soap is meant to lighten the rest of the body for an even tone from head to toe.

For Tr & M, a.m./p.m., Illuminants Lightening Primer Cream is for first-time users who can then move to Illuminants Light Cream when there is no longer a stinging feeling with the primer cream. The light cream is to be applied to the face and neck while avoiding the eyes and nostrils areas.

The last and most important step is protection. VMV is famous for its non-greasy matte finish colorless sunblock called Armada with SPFs 30, 45 and 60. This has a skin-lightening effect.

Note: It is a must to follow the lightening primer or cream with sunblock to prevent discoloration. The cream can be used indoors as well as outdoors because lightening agents are sensitive to even artificial light that may cause darkening.

You may pick up the newsletter at your VMV counters or inquire from beauty consultants. The newsletter is a particularly helpful issue that everyone should have.

Daughters falling for rogues

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My husband and I have three pretty daughters (aged 17 to 20).

Diane, the eldest, has a boyfriend who is a college dropout. He is 19 and has good manners, but has not finished any course. I disapproved of him, but Diane threatened to leave home if we broke up their relationship.

I had him apply in my company's sales unit. But Ben preferred to go to the province to take care of his grandmother.

My worse problem is Tessie, the second child. She fell for Jim, 20, a high-school graduate. He didn't go to college or get a job. Even Tessie's girl friends do not like him. I tried to get them started on the right track, lending them money for a handicraft business, which failed.

A month ago, word spread that Jim had taken Tessie to bed. My family was shocked, and Tessie cried almost every day from embarrassment. Jim later admitted he "invented" the story to get mre information on Tessie from her friends. Tessie stayed with my sister in another town until the rumor died down.

Our youngest's boyfriend is a reformed drug user who is now a nursing student. I heard he has quite a temper although he is good-mannered when he is with us.

My husband is often abroad, working, and I have been very close to my daughters. We are even praised for it. But after all these happened, I feel that I failed as a mother. Why are my daughters so trusting and can't seem to tell the right guys from the wrong ones?

A MOTHER

That's a hard question to answer. But here's my two-cents' worth anyway:

If only one of your daughters is behaving that way, I'd say she is prompted by something very personal or specific to her. But since all three are behaving similarly, they probably have something in common that influences their view of life and love—or, more specifically, romance.

Your daughters seem to think that the best man to love and, perhaps, the best lover as well, is the unconventional man, someone who defies the world probably because he thinks it can be better or maybe because fate has been harsh to him. Because of lack of experience and skills— but not determination and passion—he fights back awkwardly and unintentionally harms himself and others. Such a man may be misunderstood by many, but he may be a true hero, trying to save not just damsels in distress but, sometimes, the world.

He could be a prize catch. But for a girl to get such a man, she must not only see the hidden goodness in him but must also save him from the world and from himself.

You've already made your daughters aware of the risks in their choices. Remind them, but don't nag. Also, as tactfully as you can, deny them opportunities to get physically intimate with their boyfriends.

So encourage your daughters to set bigger professional goals that will take longer to attain. That should give your daughters time to meet other men.

Bigen
Speedy
Conditioning Color
Color & Covering gray in 10 min.
Speedy
"Now I'm never too busy to color my hair."
Alice Dixson

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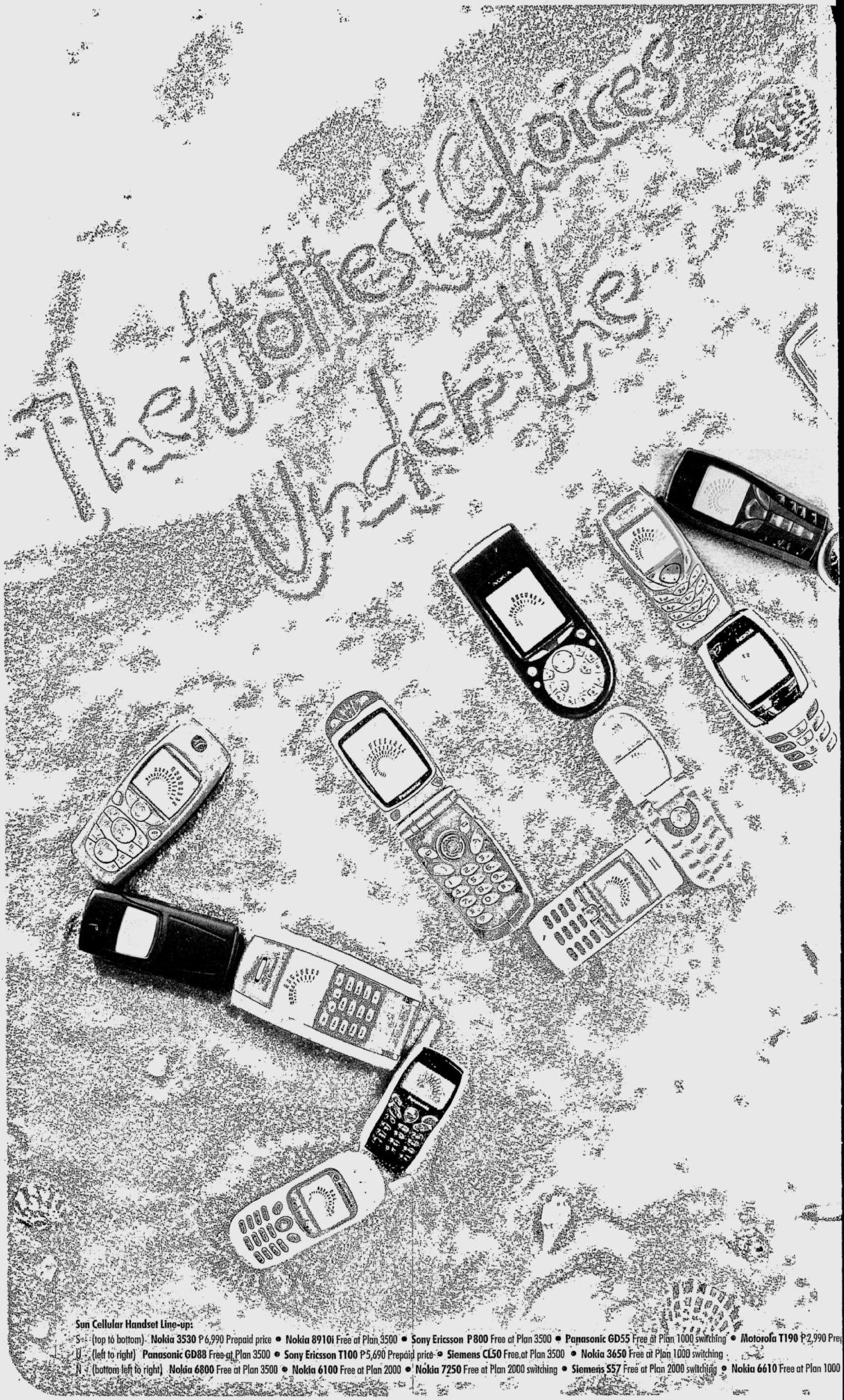
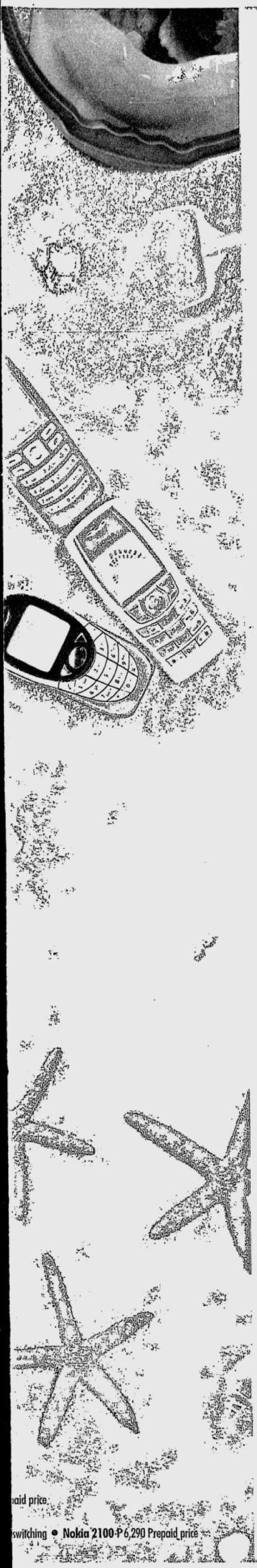
HOYU No. 1 hair color in Japan



Sun Cellular Handset Line-up:

S - (top to bottom) **Nokia 3530** ₱6,990 Prepaid price • **Nokia 8910i** Free at Plan 3500 • **Sony Ericsson P800** Free at Plan 3500 • **Panasonic GD55** Free at Plan 1000 switching • **Motorola T190** ₱2,990 Prep
U - (left to right) **Panasonic GD88** Free at Plan 3500 • **Sony Ericsson T100** ₱5,690 Prepaid price • **Siemens CL50** Free at Plan 3500 • **Nokia 3650** Free at Plan 1000 switching
N - (bottom left to right) **Nokia 6800** Free at Plan 3500 • **Nokia 6100** Free at Plan 2000 • **Nokia 7250** Free at Plan 2000 switching • **Siemens S57** Free at Plan 2000 switching • **Nokia 6610** Free at Plan 1000



aid price.

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HANDSET RATES

HANDSETS	PREPAID	NEW SUBSCRIPTION				SWITCHING			
		Plan 250	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500	Plan 250	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500
Panasonic GD88	24,490	23,000	19,000	7,500	FREE	20,750	16,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 7250	22,990	21,000	13,000	5,000	FREE	18,750	9,000	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson P800	34,990	32,750	25,000	18,000	FREE	30,500	21,000	12,000	FREE
Nokia 8910i	34,990	31,500	22,000	15,000	FREE	29,000	18,000	9,000	FREE
Nokia 3530	6,990	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	3,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Panasonic GD55	7,290	4,500	2,250	FREE	FREE	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3650	25,490	18,850	4,000	FREE	FREE	17,500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S57	18,790	17,250	14,500	7,500	FREE	14,500	11,000	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6610	20,790	16,000	3,000	FREE	FREE	15,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 2100	6,290	1,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	500	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola T190	2,990	1,250	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T100	5,690	2,000	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson T200	7,290	5,000	2,750	750	FREE	2,750	1,750	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3510	5,090	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6100	22,990	19,000	14,500	FREE	FREE	18,000	6,500	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6800	22,090	19,000	10,000	4,000	FREE	18,500	9,250	3,000	FREE
Siemens CL50	15,990	14,500	11,500	10,000	FREE	12.000	9,750	7,750	FREE

Prices reflect 24-month holding period, 12-month pricing available upon inquiry.

i-SPEAK Plan	PREPAID	POSTPAID			
		250	1000	2000	3500
Free Text	50	175	450	680	1200
Voice Calls **Local** • Sun to Sun • Sun to other mobiles • Sun to Landline	₱5.00 ₱6.00 ₱6.00	₱5.00 ₱6.00 ₱6.00	₱4.50 ₱5.50 ₱5.50	₱4.00 ₱5.00 ₱5.00	₱4.00 ₱5.00 ₱5.00
NDD	₱9.50	₱9.50	₱9.00	₱8.50	₱8.50
IDD	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30
Text Messages • Sun to Sun • Sun to other mobiles	₱1.00 ₱1.00	₱1.00 ₱1.00	₱1.00 ₱1.00	₱1.00 ₱1.00	₱1.00 ₱1.00
International Text	₱10.00	₱10.00	₱10.00	₱10.00	₱10.00

i-TEXT Plan	PREPAID	POSTPAID			
		250	1000	2000	3500
Free Text	100	300	700	1000	1750
Voice Calls **Local** • Sun to Sun • Sun to other mobiles • Sun to Landline	₱6.00 ₱6.50 ₱6.50	₱6.00 ₱6.50 ₱6.50	₱5.50 ₱6.00 ₱6.00	₱5.00 ₱5.50 ₱5.50	₱5.00 ₱5.50 ₱5.50
NDD	₱10.00	₱10.00	₱9.50	₱9.00	₱9.00
IDD	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30
Text Messages • Sun to Sun • Sun to other mobiles	₱0.50 ₱1.00	₱0.50 ₱1.00	₱0.50 ₱1.00	₱0.50 ₱1.00	₱0.50 ₱1.00
International Text	₱9.00	₱9.00	₱9.00	₱9.00	₱9.00

IDD rate valid until August 11, 2003. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2012 Series of 2003.

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My fall from fabulousness

THE NEW look of cargo pants such as this in earth-colored twill from Marni is practical yet does not lose out in style. The printed top adds a bit of glam and keeps the look from being utilitarian.

From page D1

There are days when I hardly see anyone that I feel I should put on a ruffled Viktor and Rolf jacket for a pick-up at the dry cleaners. My husband wants me to throw out all the clothes I no longer wear (read: not suitable for my new life and new fat figure).

But like an aging Norma Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard" who clung to her former fame, I cling to the clothes like fur balls, thinking the thought that has started more discussions than who will rule Iraq—"Maybe I'll wear it again one day…."

I used to hate suits because I felt I looked like a flight attendant or a banker, until I found two made of stretch fabric, both from Costume National (at Joyce Hong Kong), which I wear with Pucci or Diane von Furstenberg tops only because they need no ironing. Lately, I am lovin' my Yohji Yamamoto+Noir (Taipei Metro, Taiwan) palazzos that look like samurai pants, which I wear with Petite Bateau children's T-shirts from Carrefour (France's very slightly more stylish version of Price Club).

Plight of fashion victims

The whole idea of fashion is to manipulate the most number of dedicated followers into the next most stylish thing.

If a designer conglomerate does not push the latest purse costing the debt of an African nation, then it is some magazine (prodded by labels with advertising budgets the combined GDP of South America) that publishes an In and Out list that makes you feel more unworthy than Wayne in front of Alice Cooper.

As any fashion victim would know, spending money is merely the start of probably the most co-dependent relationship anyone could ever have—the love of fashion. Being a slave to love only involves emotional and psychological trauma plus the occasional drug /and or drinking problem.

But being a slave to fashion breeds insecurity "Will anyone know this Tod's bag is from Schenzen?"), competition ("Now how ever did that woman in the Fendi leggings get that Birkin? I bet it's fake. Maybe even her boobs are fake"), delusion ("This $1,000 cream will make me look like Nicole Kidman without plastic surgery or gene manipulation"), resentment ("J.Lo looks like a cleaning lady in her employer's clothes and jewels"), and, finally, desperation ("Aaarrgghh!!! Wha am I gonna wear??"). They cause a vicious acquisition cycle that for some people happens every season. Others do it every week, and, in the worst cases, every day.

IN THE TRENCHES: Spring's trench coats are being delivered in pastels but nothing beats the wearability and mystery of a black trench. This Yohji Yamamoto trench dress gets a quick change of personality with a pair of extremely high pumps or super flat ballerinas.

Tracking fashion

Tracksuits may be all the rage, particularly Juicy Couture, but for me, a tracksuit will always be loungewear (read: *pambahay*). I can't bring myself to do Juicy Couture in velour. But I do it in cashmere (with Adidas Yohjis), much to the horror of one of my fashionista London friends who ran into me cleaning the windows and taking the trash out in it.

Aside from throwing the trash out, one of my most important daily tasks is walking the dogs several times a day. You would think I should be wearing Juicy Couture for this main event, but no… I have an ultra-reliable, season-less and fabulous uniform of Mosaic (at Rockwell Mall), 5-pocket twill clamdiggers and striped children's short-sleeved polo T-shirts from Regatta (at Glorietta Mall).

Depending on how cold it gets, I throw on a sweater from Isabel Marant (at Aime on Ledbury Road, London W11; www.aimelondon.com) or a silk mein lap from Blanc de Chine (Pedder Building, Hong Kong).

Despite minis and shorts being the must-haves this summer, I am being forced into trousers, having been bitten by my faithful dogs. But then the magical Crème de la Mer should take care of the scars.

The truth is, I have ballooned beyond the largest size of Marc Jacobs and Marni stocked at Joyce Hong Kong and Taipei. So this season, de-

MY FALL/ D7

THE GENIUS of Issey Miyake in jersey: Nothing is as perfect as jersey that drapes you throughout the day and still remains creaseless at night.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOYCE

10 to 10
TOWN SALE

Don't miss the 10 to 10 Mallwide Sale May 23-25 and May 30 - June 1 for big savings on apparel, appliances, furniture and more.
Plus, at least 50% off on teen wear, shoes and accessories.

May 19 to 31 - Ansons Appliance Fair • May 24 - Acoustic Nights featuring Nyoy Volante
May 31 - Acoustic Nights featuring Romy Jorolan • June 1 Kevyn Lettau

10 to 10 TOWN SALE

10 to 10 Mallwide Sale Participating Stores: 98 store • Alberto Shoes • All Boxed Up • Angelas • Anne Juleth • Asian Finds • Babyland • Beagle House • Bearhuggs • Big & Small/Havin A Baby • Bravo Golf • Celine/CMG • CK Jeans • Confetti • Datacore • Designer Blooms • Dimensione • Esteem Fashion Square • Filbars • Fino Leatherwear • Fossil • Francesco • Gibi House • Gingersnaps • Girbaud • GNC • Hang Ten • Herencia Arts & Antiques • I2I • Island Spice • Jag • Janylin • Joi Boutique • Kameraworld • Keri-Oi • Kickers • Leaveland Boutique • Lee Pipes • Marcella • Morris Bane • National Bookstore • Olympic World • Orange Juice • Pacific Shades • Paripassu & Co. • Pentax • Picture City • Play & Display • Powerbooks • Pretty Blue Ice • Regatta • Rusty Lopez • Sarabia Optical • Sari - Sari Store • Scents & Blends • Store One • Studio AK • Tai - Ping • Terries Boutique • The Castle • Theme • Timex • Via Venetto • Young Minds • Zwilling JA Henckels

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Per DTI NCR Permit No.A2-203 Series of 2003.

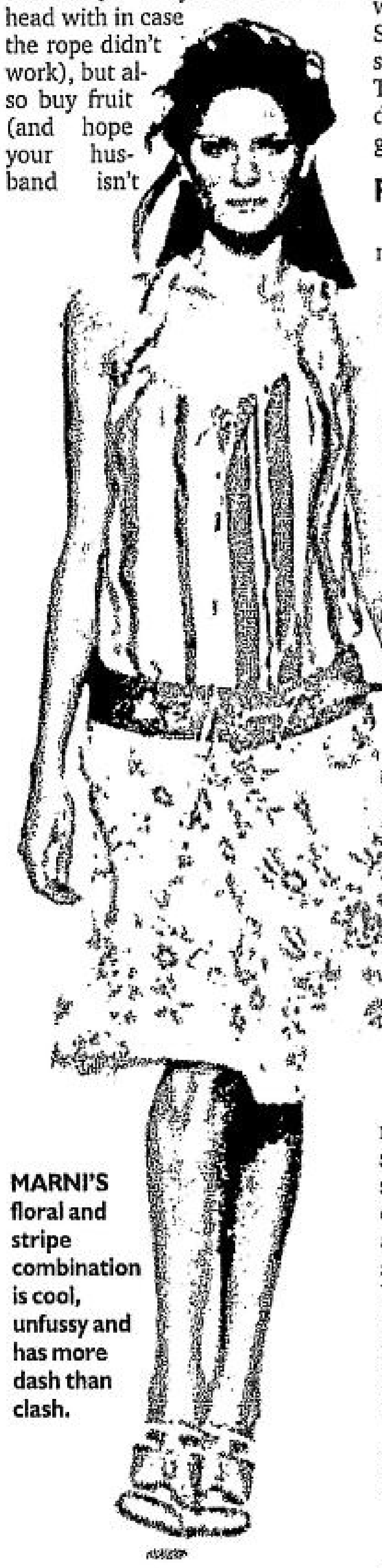
My fall from fabulousness

From page D6

spite denim being out, I will have to be in Sari-Sari (Glorietta and SM Mega Mall) T-shirts and tanks and paperdenim&cloth jeans and a Valentino jacket worn with Converse sneakers.

Printed matters

There are more ugly days than carpet stains in the life of a wannabe housewife, and for those indescribably atrocious days when you not only have to go to the hardware to buy rope (to hang yourself with) and a wrench (to hit yourself on the head with in case the rope didn't work), but also buy fruit (and hope your husband isn't one) and research the latest models in dehumidifiers, there are always prints.



MARNI'S floral and stripe combination is cool, unfussy and has more dash than clash.

I was never comfortable as a minimalist. The Audrey Hepburn simple little black dress was just that. Too simple. Therefore, I have to shamefully admit that my favorites are far from classics, as fashion books would say. My two favorite pants are in prints so head-turningly loud, even your mother's voice would drown in them.

One is a red and fuschia floral from Regatta and a khaki and black silhouette print from Alessandro dell Acqua which I wear with Thomas Pink or Paul Smith (Glorietta Mall) striped shirts and protective footwear like Tod's or Belgian loafers so my toes don't get hurt and my feet don't get wet at the flower market.

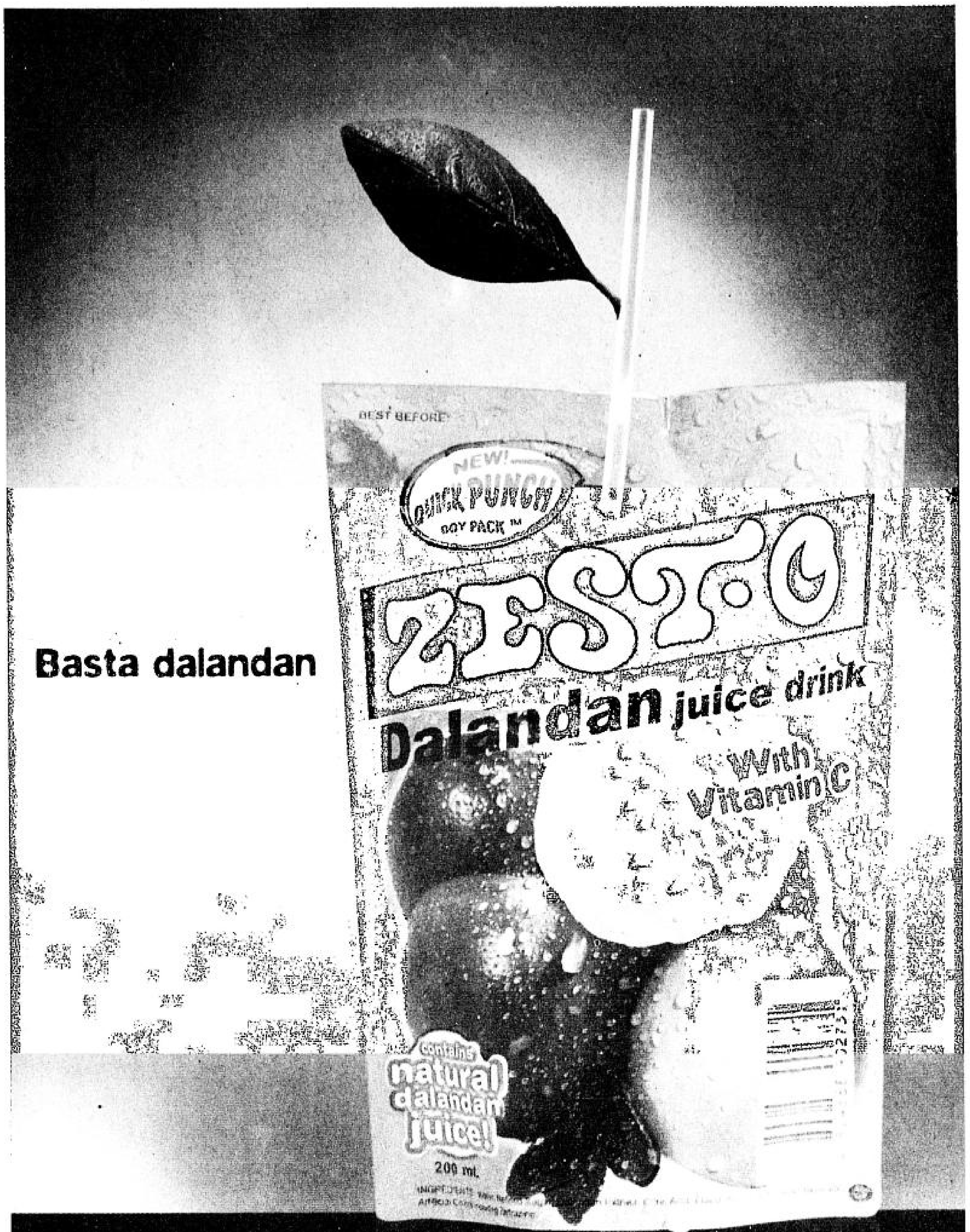
Perils of trying

Please, don't think I don't make an effort to go out. I do, but bad things do happen to good people. Last summer I was supposed to attend the Dior pool party with my friend Albert Lo of the HK Tatler, but a dog fight ensued at my house so I rushed to the vet with my face made up only in ERA Face spray foundation (so I looked like Marilyn Manson without the heavy eye makeup), a bloody Chloe T-shirt (current season because this was, after all, Hong Kong), Mosaic jeans and Jimmy Choos. One look at the vet's face when we arrived—bloody dog, kabuki makeup and heels—and I thought we would have to take the vet to the hospital. I looked like a Satan worshipper in a Vogue Evil Special.

I still attend occasional fashion and beauty events, but sometimes see no reason to make an effort in the style department because—hey, who's going to look at me? The Chinese paparazzi when they could be shooting Maggie Q? However, despite living in cities where I have closer relationships with waiters and carpenters than friends, I still see the need to look the best I can be in the least glamorous situations. I am trying to live and dress in the way Scott Fellows, former creative director of Bally, calls "everyday extraordinary."

Now where did I put that Birkin I can stuff the dog supplies into?

Email the author at kitty_go@hotmail.com



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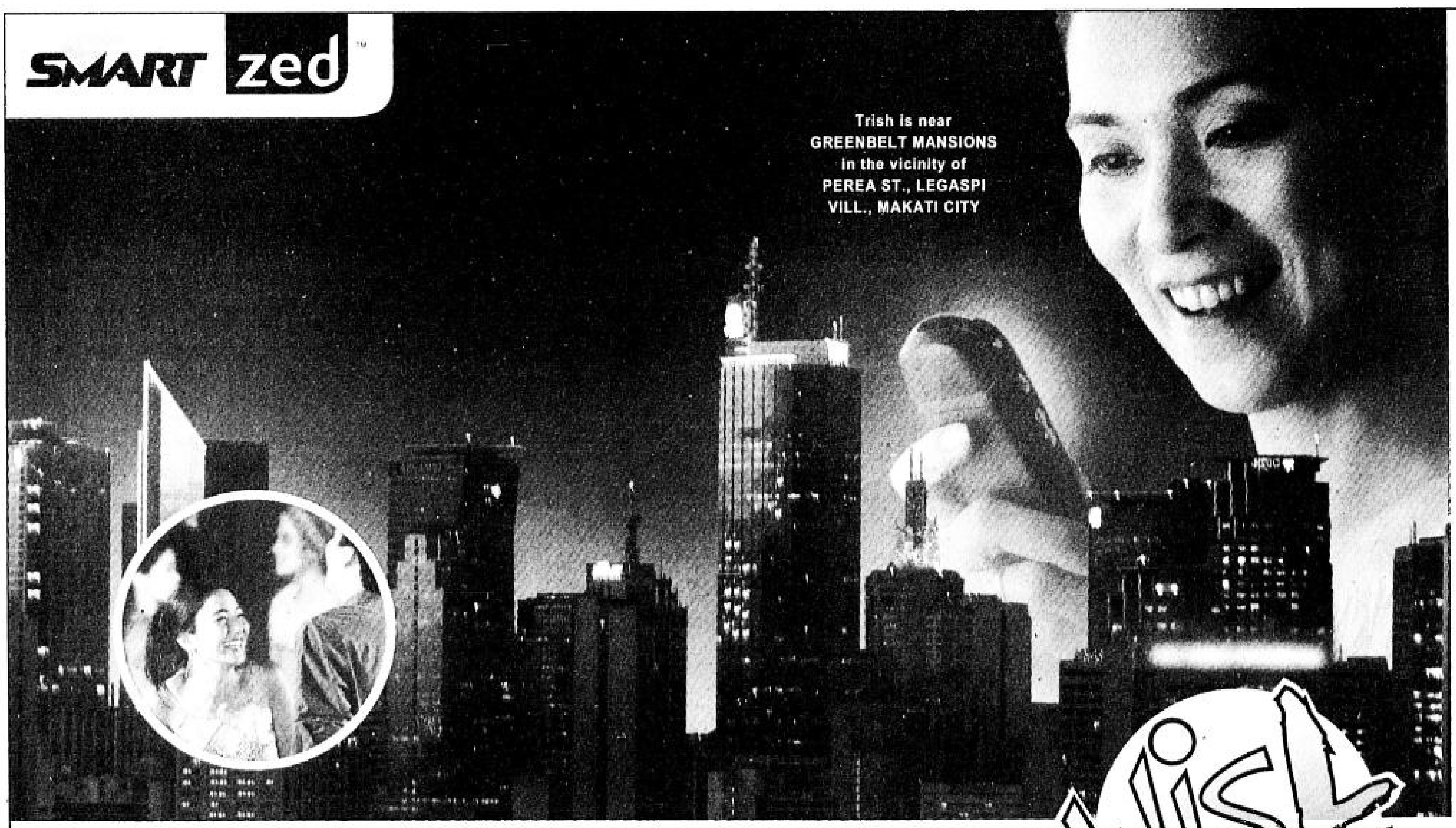

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0837 Series of 2003

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Type "WIS"

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To turn off SMART zed WISL Person Finder	WIS OFF
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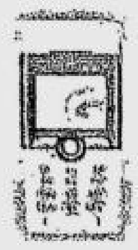
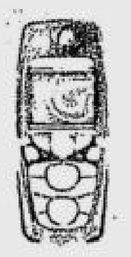

Sony Ericsson T310

Nokia 6610

Siemens C55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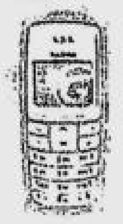
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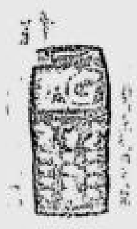
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EVEN as I tried to get over a non-SARS cold, I was enticed by foremost stylist **Michael Salientes** (who must be the only one I know who can hyperventilate via texting) to have a late dinner at Pepato, the crown jewel in **Margarita Fores'** string of restos.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

Design-wise, Pepato is a break from the minimalism and the cold industrial look; it's no cookie-cutter design. Food-wise, Margarita couldn't have been more flirtatious with her marker's palate, scoring high in the process.

Our table was a captive audience with runaway appetites: **Alya Honasan, Carlo Tadiar, Apa Ongpin** (who's back in our publishing fold as brand manager), **Freida Dario, Mel Cuevas** and **Ria de Borja**.

Michael and Carlo practically knew the menu by heart. I didn't, but as the dishes were served up, it became obvious to me that only a combination of passion, restlessness and creativity—Margarita's obviously—could have produced such culinary repertoire. She gave her trademark Italian genre a good fusion twist, yet again.

From appetizers onward, we went right ahead and sinned. For starters, buffalo mozzarella (cow-milk based, of course); roasted *bulalo* that you scooped off its bone, dabbed with black truffle and spread on crusty bread; cheese waffle with shiitake mushroom; green ravioli with crab meat, calamansi/salted egg cream.

The carbonara, Apa would remember later, wasn't cream but as Margarita pointed out, was done the way Italians do it—cooked on egg yolk. Its bacon strips come from a choice part of the pig—the cheeks—"oh, *sisig*," our table said. Margarita found an Italian entrepreneur here who can give her the pig's cheeks.

Our main courses were roast angus tenderloin with garlic-caperberry sauce, pan-roasted Chilean sea bass, and goat. No fear. The goat must have met a blissful death, we assured vegan Freida, for its meat was soft, tender and appetizing. Margarita gets her goat from a Bacolod farm that keeps its precious ward on grain diet, thus the non-rancid taste.

In designing Pepato, architect **Jorge Yulo**

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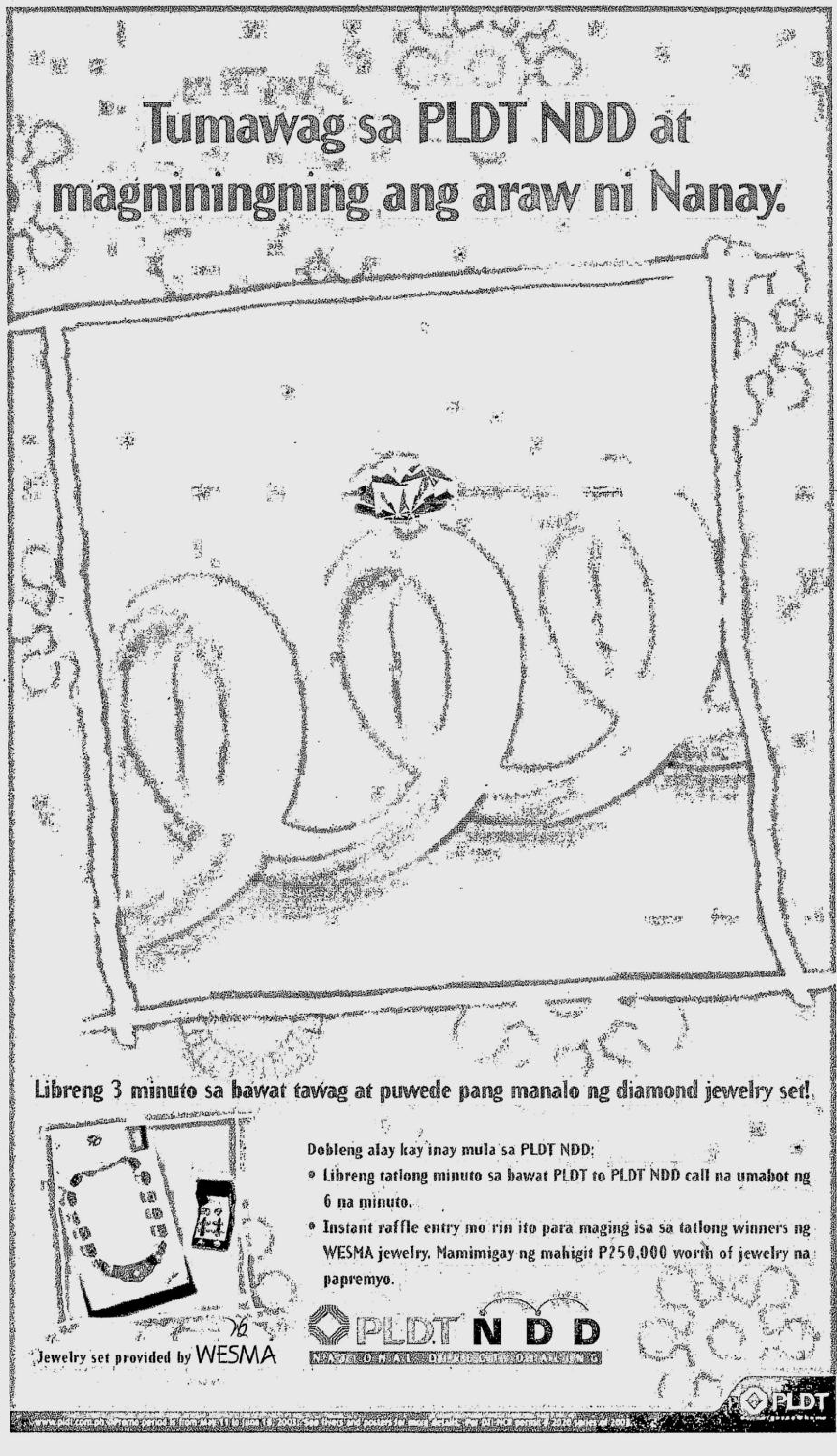

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Will PET revolutionize fashion?

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

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Today, records show that PET post-consumer containers account for 16 percent of solid waste in Metro Manila, third in volume to organic waste (52 percent), and paper/board (17 percent). The recovery rate of PET waste from the 5,040 metric tons of industrial and post-consumer waste generated in 2001 was 21 percent, which was attributed to the PET recovery and recycling program.

What happens to the recovered PET waste? A big part of it is exported in flake form to industrialized countries, where they are transformed into "second generation" products like jackets, T-shirts, windbreakers, non-woven clothes, cassette cases, casual and athletic shoes, and carpets. In the Philippines, products like garments from fiber-blended PET, are being developed by the Industrial Technology Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology.

In the Philippines, malls and supermarkets have recovery centers while neighborhood *sari-sari* stores ask for an empty bottle as replacement or a cash deposit to ensure the return of the empty soda container.

Recycled plastic is being blended with natural fibers and made into fabrics

New book

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The book is available at the Management Association of the Philippines, AIM Conference Center, Ayala Corporation Hall, Legaspi Village, Makati, tel. 751-11-49 to 52; e-mail: mapsec@globenet.com.ph

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Dutch floral designer to hold workshops

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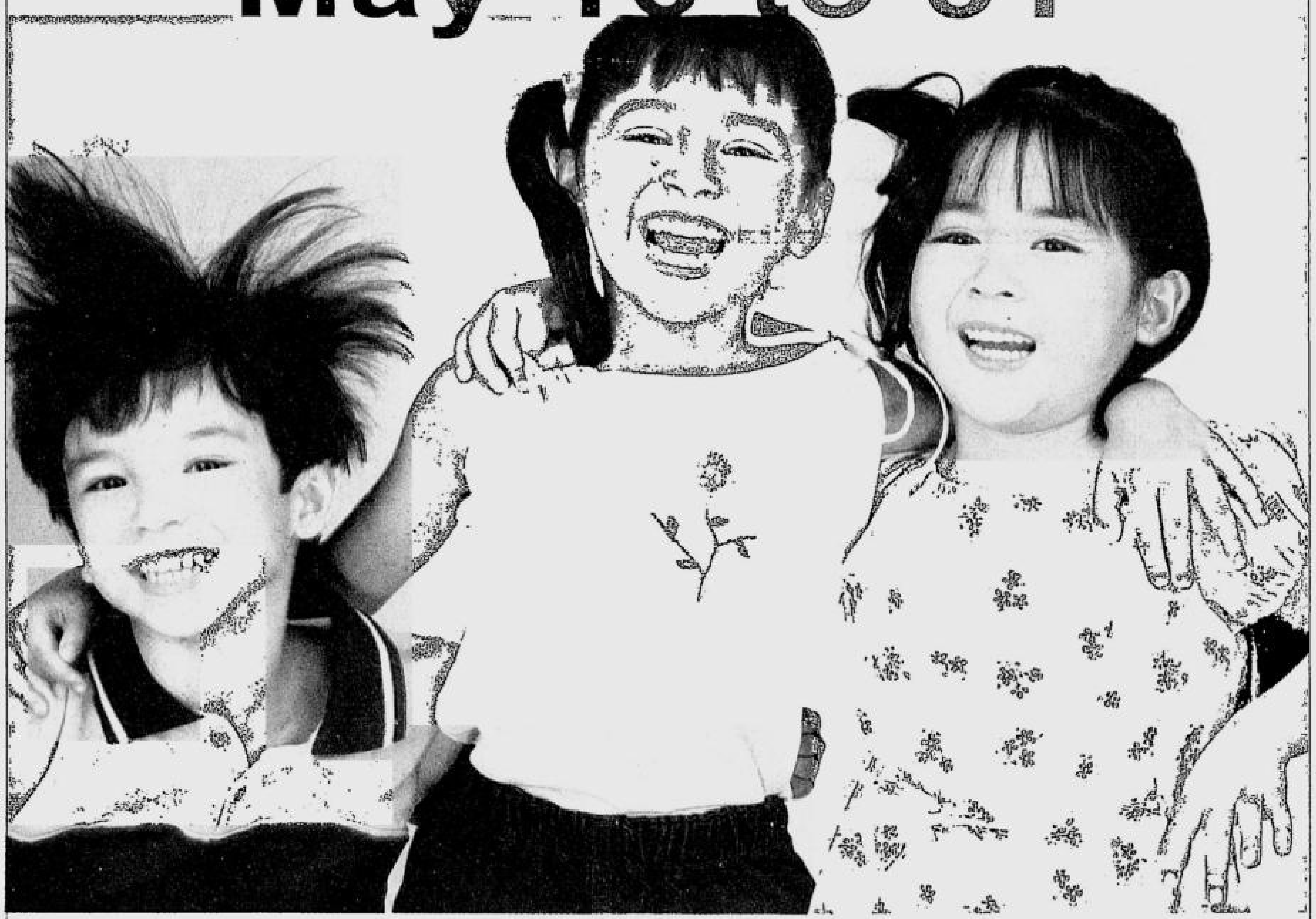
Visit Agrikultura Pilipina at 96 New York St., Cubao, Q.C., or call 439-7931/32; and 1605 Laon Laan St., Sampaloc, Manila, tel. 741-1000/6967.

A MIX of spring flowers



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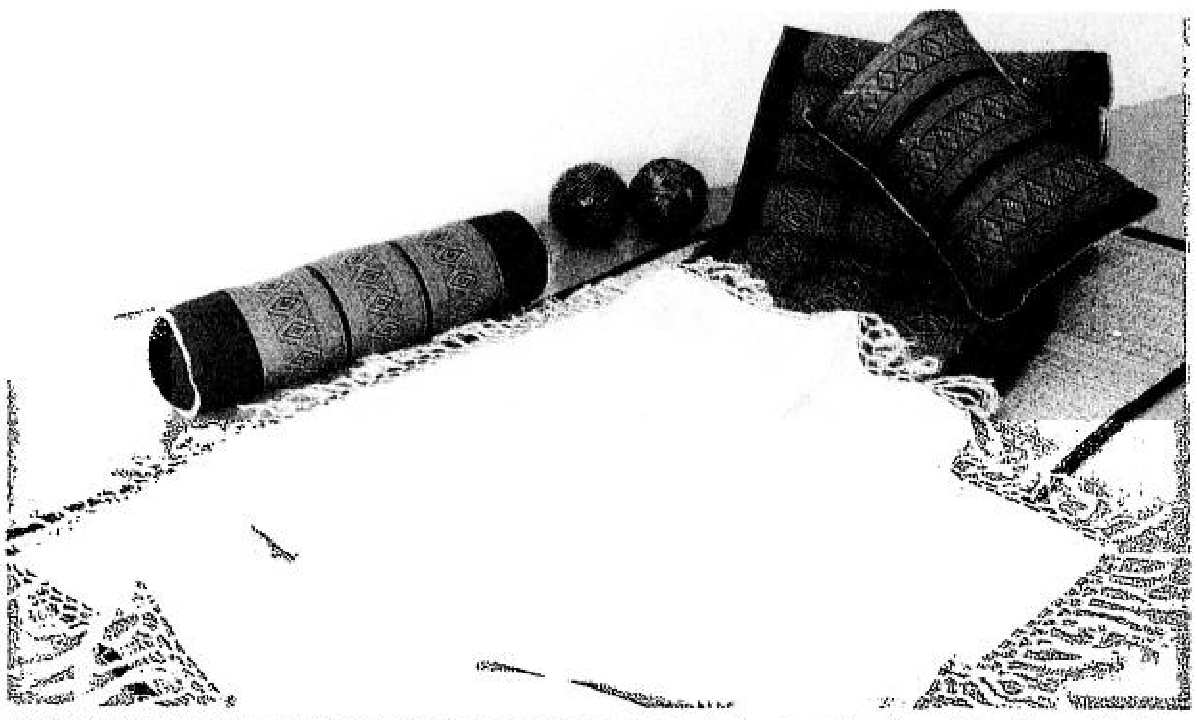
STUDIO Eleven's fabrics from its Shimmer Collection come in warm, luxurious colors that look best in the bedroom.

HANDMADE Japanese-inspired lamps from Lising Crafts provide subdued lighting that is perfect for relaxing.



THE RICHNESS of Thai culture is evident in the embroidered day bed and cushions from Sifra Arts and Crafts.

One-stop home improvement hub

A TWO-STORY structure in the heart of Eastwood's commercial complex brings together top names in interior design furnishing. The Home and Lifestyle Center has an extensive selection of furniture, accents, accessories, novelties and decor with European, American and Asian themes.

Unna Moebel, a newcomer in the trade, has a selection of handsome, export-quality furniture famous all over the world. It is a sister company of Trayline Corp., a furniture manufacturing and exporting company in Taytay, Rizal, in 1987.

A joint venture of Farida Aguilos and sister Rose Bertol, Unna Moebel offers wood, wrought-iron and leather furniture made of locally available materials. Homeowners will appreciate the Philippine-made furniture displays in the shop, from plush bedroom sets to luxurious living and dining area showcases.

Aguilos believes that appreciation for Filipino craftsmanship will increase if export products are made available in the local market.

Lighting

For a wide array of lighting options for houses, 48-year-old Lising Crafts is the place to visit. It offers handmade lamps and elegant chandeliers in every shape, size and color. The shop's items reveal a fusion of various cultural influences, from Japanese art to European crafts.

Owner Mercedes Lising, who designs most of the lamps in the shop, combines different materials to achieve a totally different look for her products. Terracotta, glass, paper, beads—almost anything is utilized to fashion the beautiful items.

European fiber is also becoming popular among her customers because it can produce the sturdiest lamps with interesting shapes. Today, Lising is focused on developing a line of space-saving, medium-sized lamps for condominiums.

Country theme

Benelco brings a new twist to country-style decorating. The shop features handicraft with a fresh style that appeals to all generations. Its signature style: dried flowers and seeds artistically arranged in a frame.

Owners Ben and Elena Valencia blended their love for crafts with a keen business sense. Starting with charming wooden trays, they then created bigger and more elaborate pieces like huge wall frames, coffee tables, desks and pedestal stands.

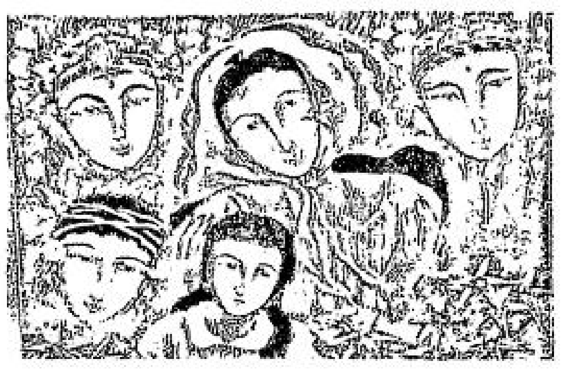
Since the couple has a passion for plants, customers also get a wide range of dried plant arrangements. The business offers handmade items and uses quality local materials.

Coverings

Homes get the lavish treatment at Studio Eleven, where contemporary fabrics abound. Catering to a young and trendy market, the shop focuses on creating a modern but cozy look for the interior. Unique hand-woven fabrics from natural grass and tree fiber like abaca and raffia can be used for roman shades and wall coverings. While imported bed linens made from 100 percent combed cotton make the bedroom more luxurious. Their trademark bamboo blinds are also a big hit. Items are organized systematically, making shopping convenient.

Studio Eleven was conceptualized by Wisdom Sy, a self-taught designer, and his wife Betty Ching Sy, daughter of Shell Canvas owner Ben Ching. It offers stylish decorating options that are cool, comfortable and sensual, allowing clients to transform an ordinary room into an elegant suite. Studio Eleven applies the same principle that has made its parent company, Shell Canvas, successful: giving clients value for their money with its affordable and high-quality products.

DRAMATIC craftsmanship, as seen in this bedroom showcase, is a trademark of Unna Moebel furniture, which is made from locally available materials.



ALEGRIA carries an exemplary collection of paintings, like this Mario Parial creation, "Asian Memories."

Oriental

Homeowners who appreciate Oriental decor but still want to retain the modern look of their homes can find a wide range of choices at Sifra Arts and Crafts. The shop features products that owner Conrad Adamos has picked up from his Asian travels, like resin figurines from Thailand, silk tablerunners from India and lacquerware from Vietnam. It also carries an impressive assortment of one-of-a-kind handmade lamps, frames, tapestries and mats designed by Adamos himself. Adamos, who has a passion for interior decorating, started out making papier-mâché crafts. Today, he has evolved into a businessman selling an exotic collection of home accents and accessories.

Framed

Alegria has made an art out of selling paintings. Not only does it showcase stunning art pieces, it helps buyers understand an artist's creations more profoundly by educating them about the importance of originality and creative vision. Owned and managed by Joy Dee and her family, the shop features paintings by artists like Lamarroza, Jose Blanco and Mario Parial. At present, the owners emphasize the promotion of local talent and, more especially, Philippine art. Catering to a variety of artistic tastes, the shop's merchandising is done with a very personal touch, which is a trademark of the Alegria business. Art aficionados have long appreciated the owners' choices—not only do they acquire valuable art but they also learn more about the artistry that goes into making beautiful paintings,

BY ARTFULLY arranging dried flowers and seeds within a wooden frame, Benelco comes up with unique handicrafts, like this four-panel divider.

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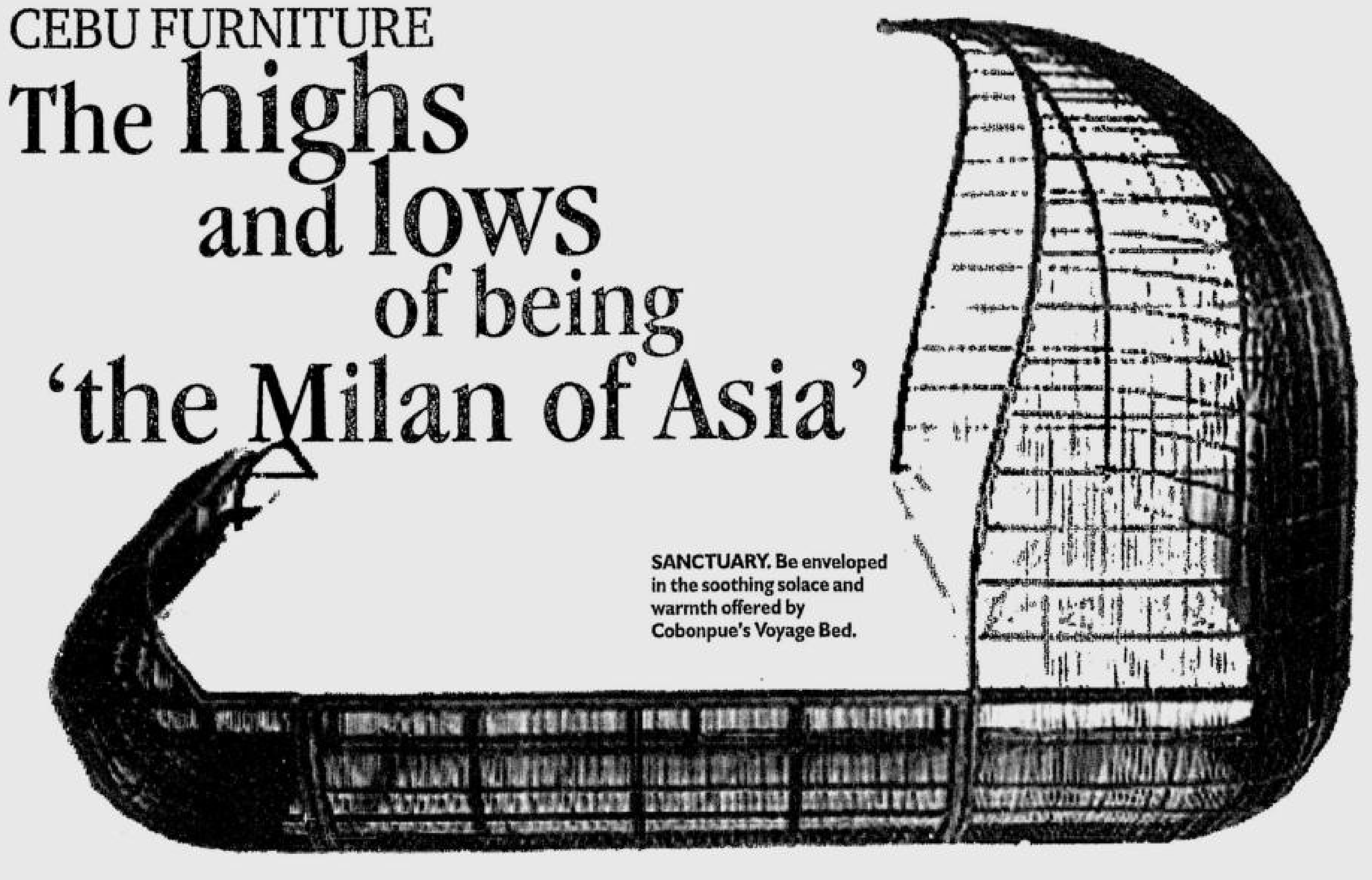
CEBU FURNITURE

The highs and lows of being 'the Milan of Asia'

The reality behind the showcase is that despite being the toast of the western world, Cebu furniture struggles against Chinese pirates and government apathy



SANCTUARY. Be enveloped in the soothing solace and warmth offered by Cobonpue's Voyage Bed.

KENNETH Cobonpue

By Kitty Go
Contributor

YOU may have hankered for them in Architectural Digest and Metropolitan Home magazines or handled them in British department stores John Lewis or Harrod's. You may even be sitting on one now. Unbeknown to many consumers, some of the best furniture in the world comes from Cebu, an island more commonly known for its beach resorts and preserved mangoes.

For decades, Cebu has been the resource destination for upscale furniture retailers in America and Britain such as Dillard's, Ethan Allen, Kreiss, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Bahama, Macy's, Palecek, Harrod's and John Lewis. Cebuanos proudly call their town "the Milan of Asia."

"[That's] because the designs are timely, the materials are abundant and diverse," Jonathan Matti, decorator to the country's young establishment, says.

However, cutting-edge furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue, whose award-winning pieces each take five days to a week to assemble, thinks the city has a long way to go in terms of industry organizing, professionalism and exposure to the West in research and marketing.

"It is the Milan of Asia and the sample room of China," says Carlo Cordera, an Italian who has made Cebu his home after taking over Cebu Fil Veneer, a wood furniture plant, seven years ago. Cordera's precisely engineered multifunctional pieces in walnut, tiger wood and bamboo are available at Lane Crawford in Hong Kong (Pacific Place 88, Queensway, Admiralty; tel. +852-2118-3668) and Roche Bobois in Paris.

No state support

As if competition this island metropolis faces against mechanized production and low prices of China are not a big enough problem, the Philippine government practically does nothing to support the furniture export industry, let alone Cebu, which in the year 2000, according to the Cebu Furniture Industries Foundation (CFIF), accounted for $220 million of the total Philippine furniture and design export of $600 million.

"The government doesn't help you. They steal from you," lamented one factory owner, who refused to be identified.

Despite competition from China and almost no government support (in April 2002, several manufacturers joined the "Salone Internazionale del Mobile di Milano" with financing from the Dutch government), companies from 3-year-old start-ups to publicly held giants are confident that Cebu will continue to be a major resource for high-end furniture.

Edward Carey, general manager of Maitland-Smith, the biggest furniture company in Cebu that annually produces about 8,000 designs of primarily 18th-century English reproduction furniture, says, "Cebu has a niche market for small volumes. It is design-led from concept to production."

Asian Vine Furniture supplies metal and mosaic stone wine and coffee tables to John Lewis. General manager Mona Padilla says buyers are transferring product development, including design, to manufacturers.

She explains the importance of taking the creative initiative, "Buyers are only interested in what's on the floor. If you don't do product development, you'll be out of business."

On its factory grounds that were once a sugar plantation, 50-year-old Mehitabel, Cebu's oldest furniture company, shows its products in a colonial plantation house complete with carriage entrance.

Strength in design

Enrison Benedicto, senior vice president at Berben Wood Industries, believes their small minimum of 20 units per style guarantees them the steady stream of orders that China will not even consider.

Robert Booth, president of Mehitabel, agrees. "Cebu will always do what it's done: work on lower volumes than China and focus on high-end furniture."

WING chair from Mehitabel

The bigger companies also know their strengths. For Berben, which started as a lumberyard 20 years ago, that means no outdoor furniture as Indonesia does teak lawn furniture so much better and cheaper.

Charles Streegan, president of Pacific Traders, the second biggest company whose three factories take up between 9,500 to 21,000 sq m each, claims he has a very strong European-trained design team, but "you can't be everything to everybody. Like the Philippines is not competitive in armoires."

Cebu mainly supplies casual, contemporary furniture in materials like wood, rattan, seagrass, *saguran* (skin from rattan poles), penshell (a local shell with a tortoiseshell effect), bamboo, stone and metal.

Cobonpue's Interior Crafts of the Islands, whose commercial arm supplies the likes of Conran's, devotes a small part of its production making sculptural, almost artistic pieces. The conversation pieces, such as beds and sofas made of rattan strips or iron rods wrapped with tinted abaca are available at EFDC in London's Notting Hill Gate (18-24 Westbourne Grove; tel. 020-7243-0203; fax 020-7243-0251) and have earned him kudos from Wallpaper and included him in the UK International Design Yearbook.

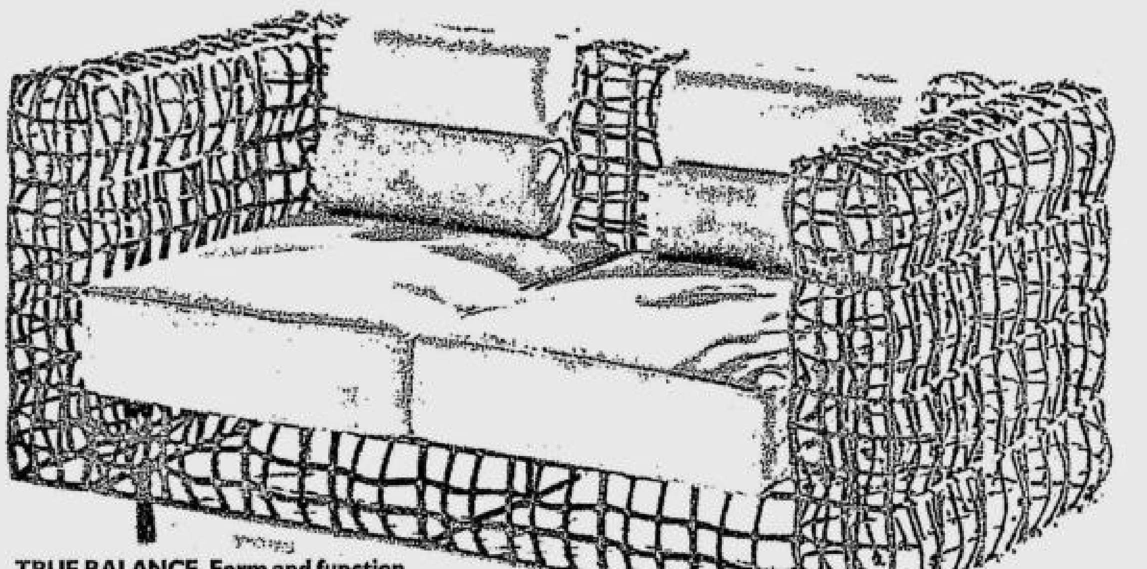
Mailtland-Smith, part of Furniture Brands International Group (which owns Thomasville, Lane, Henredon and Drexel) and Pacific Traders do bigger volumes at equally high prices.

Retail prices generally start at about $500 and go up to $20,000 for bedroom sets.

Pacific Traders has shipped chests retailing for $3,000 and secretaires for $16,000.

Style power

Cebu Fil Veneer is one of the few companies built on design-driven, limited-edition pieces with highly technical features. Tropea, one of the best-selling groups, uses wood and bamboo held by strips of leather. A square-cut bamboo chair of 142 pieces joined only by pegs garnered Carlo Cordera the Editors' Award for Best Manufactured Product at the 2001 International Contemporary Furniture Show in New York.



TRUE BALANCE. Form and function complement each other perfectly in Cobonpue's aptly named Yin and Yang chair.

"We set the trends for using bamboo in a modern way," says Cordera, "I cut it square. Most people think bamboo is cheap, but in Japan, this [treatment] is a dream."

SS Dezign's Stephanie Zagala believes that Cebu's edge is the use of mixed media. She and her husband Sylvester started their 3-year-old business with a quasi-rocking chair on ball bearings called "The Glider," still carried for several seasons at an upscale Manhattan specialty store. She showed laminated surface samples using banana tree barks, corn husks, spliced coconut roots and even termite-eaten wood used to create different patterns, mosaics and marbled effects for tabletops and occasional furniture such as side and coffee tables.

"China does not have these raw materials and Indonesia has not thought of them yet," she said with pride.

As premiere local fashion designer Philip Rodriguez puts it, "Blessed with an abundant supply of raw materials and backed with strong cultural influences from the East and West, Cebu remains innovative, adventurous and bold in its design."

Email the author at kitty_go@hotmail.com

CUTTING-EDGE furniture from Cebu

Shagreen attack

THERE is very little room for individuality in these times of fashion and style conglomerates. However, all is not lost, at least in the furniture front. Many can be custom-made but very few can be made of shagreen, the skin of sting rays from Indo-Pacific waters, reputed to be one of the strongest hides in the world.

"It's as strong as tooth enamel," says Michel Guinefolleau of Cebu Intertrade Export, who counts the Saudi royal family, Fred, Christian Dior and Jewelmer among his clients.

In the Philippines, these rare and beautiful accessories can be found at Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort.

The treatment of shagreen for use in furniture and accessories is called "Galuchat," after Jeane-Claude Galuchat, Louis XV's leather craftsman who was the first to use it in France.

The Japanese used shagreen in the 8th century on protective battle gear such as breastplates, scabbards and shields and on smaller items like sword handles and inros, small medicine bottles attached to a samurai's belt.

In the 15th century, China, Korea and Tibet used the skins for trunks and chests. Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette and Napoleon III were rumored to be collectors.

It was in the Art Deco period of the late 1920s that shagreen first became commercially popular and was used in occasional furniture such as stools, dressing tables and chests of drawers.

Limited

Last fall, leather goods line Bottega Veneta included shagreen in limited quantities in its line. Understandably so as working with shagreen has the two basic and most important elements of a business working against it: scarcity of materials and production time.

Using skins from Indonesia and Zamboanga, Guinefolleau, runs a studio of 27 artisans who make jewelry boxes, furniture, cigar cases and boxes, still using the same methods from the early 1900s.

A replica of a 1912 Paul Iribe chest of drawers of shagreen, ebony, mother of pearl and black stone would run you about $6,000 while an all-shagreen one would set you back $25,000.

Artisans generally prefer working with male skins as they are larger and about 70 percent can be used on average. Male skins are used for furniture and are preferred by collectors because of their larger scales. Skins and scales from females and hermaphrodites are smaller and are used for objects like boxes and lighter holders; sometimes only as little as 15 percent of the skins are used.

A $5,500 dressing table of ebony, African macassar and shagreen takes over a month or 300 man-hours to complete. A nabuka-lined jewelry box will take six people 10 days to make while a large chest will take seven people about a month to complete.

Guinefolleau estimates that he only fills 20 percent of his orders because what he creates cannot be mass-produced. "I am not interested in selling to people without a feeling for the products," he says. "They have to understand why the products are so expensive. This is more a passion than a business."

Kitty Go

Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort, Philippines: tel. (+63-32) 231-0288 local 68912; mobile (+63917) 696-6707).

Cebu Intertrade Export (693-A ML Quezon St., Casungtingan, Mandaue City, Cebu; telefax (+63-32) 346-3952; mobile (+63917) 812-1743; email gacite@cebu.weblinq.com

Email the author at kitty_go@hotmail.com

First-class condo complex rises in Bonifacio Global City

FORBESWOOD Heights Luxury Garden Residences, a six-tower residential condominium, is set to rise in the Forbes Town Center, a P15-billion, 5-hectare mixed use urban complex being developed by Megaworld Corp. and Bonifacio West Development Corp. in the Bonifacio Global City.

The condominium residences feature upscale homes with first-class facilities and recreational amenities. "The unique ambience of Forbeswood Heights encourages people to put aside their cares and immerse themselves in luxury and leisure—all from the comfort of their own homes," said Megaworld vice president for sales and marketing Noli Hernandez. "This quality makes it one of the most coveted pieces of real estate in the country."

Forbeswood Heights homes offer roomy one-bedroom suites and executive studios ranging from 36-59 sq m, which can be joined to suit particular living requirements. "At only P65,000 per sq m, it is a first-choice investment for young professionals, young families, bachelors and students," said Hernandez.

The condo units have polished ceramic tiles for the living and dining areas and a wood parquet finish for the bedroom floor. The bedroom, with its own well-ventilated bathroom, is furnished with a modular closet for organized storage. The kitchen features a stainless steel sink, modular undercounters, hanging cabinets and mechanical ventilation.

Each of the six Forbeswood Heights towers is equipped with two high-speed, interior-finished passenger elevators, a 24-hour security command center and a centralized mail room. There is also a standby power generator for selected common areas, an overhead water tank and underground cistern for ample water supply and an automatic fire sprinkler for each unit. The basement features spacious multilevel parking and a car wash area. Complementing these facilities are first-rate maintenance and housekeeping services.

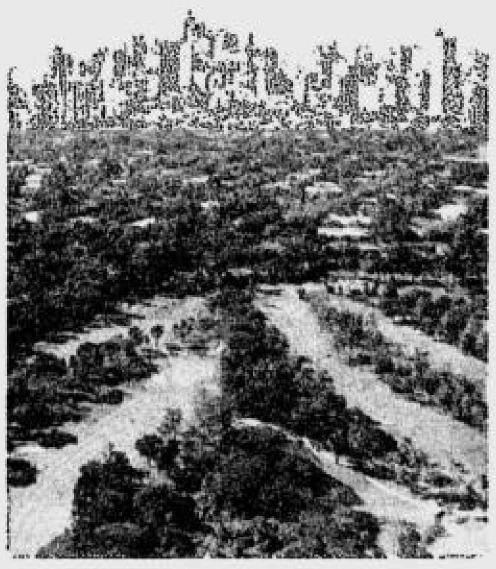
The centerpiece of the condominium project is a 5,500-sq-m central park, an expansive recreational area with tree-lined walkways, landscaped areas, a lagoon and a bird bath. There is also a swimming pool complex composed of a 25-meter-long lap pool, a free-form pool with in-water lounge, a children's wading pool with water slide, and a sunbathing lounge.

Beside the pool deck is a multipurpose hall equipped with changing rooms and a barbecue pit for family picnics. Residents who want to keep in shape can visit the nearby fitness station, jog around the park trail, or use the tennis court and putting green.

Forbeswood Heights is located next to Forbes Park, Manila Golf and Country Club and Manila Polo Club. Supermarkets like the PriceSmart Warehouse Club and the Bonifacio Stopover, a full-service gas plaza, are also nearby. The neighborhood itself has rows of trendy stores and restaurants facing one another along Forbes Town Road, on top of the other amenities offered by nearby Makati, Ortigas and Eastwood City.

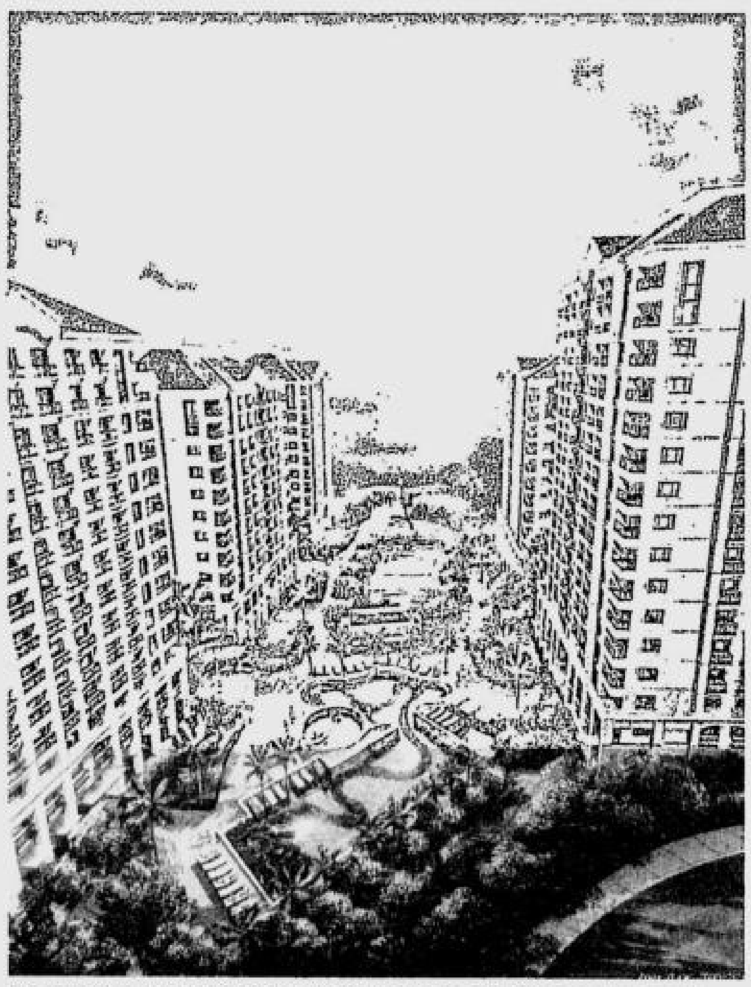
Finally, transportation within and outside the area is not a problem. Key destinations within Global City, like the e-Square IT Park and the Japanese, British and American international schools, are easily accessible. The airport is just minutes away via the South Luzon Expressway, C-5 and Edsa.

As Hernandez puts it, "Forbeswood Heights is the kind of place that attracts society's key players. This is where they will come home to. And this is where they will plan their next move."



SWEEPING views of the Manila Golf and Country Club are an everyday delight.

LUXURIOUS suites have cozy living (top photo, left) and dining areas (above).



FORBESWOOD Heights' six towers overlook a large central park boasting lush greenery and play amenities.

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home accents
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Regular 179.75

GREAT SAVINGS

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Regular 249.75

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Regular 59.75

SPECIALS

Gold-Finish Ceramic Horses
90 ea

Inspirational Wall Frames
70 ea

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10in 24.75
12in 29.75

Potpourri 70

Aroma Sachets (Assorted Scents)
20 ea

Assorted Silk Flowers
60 up

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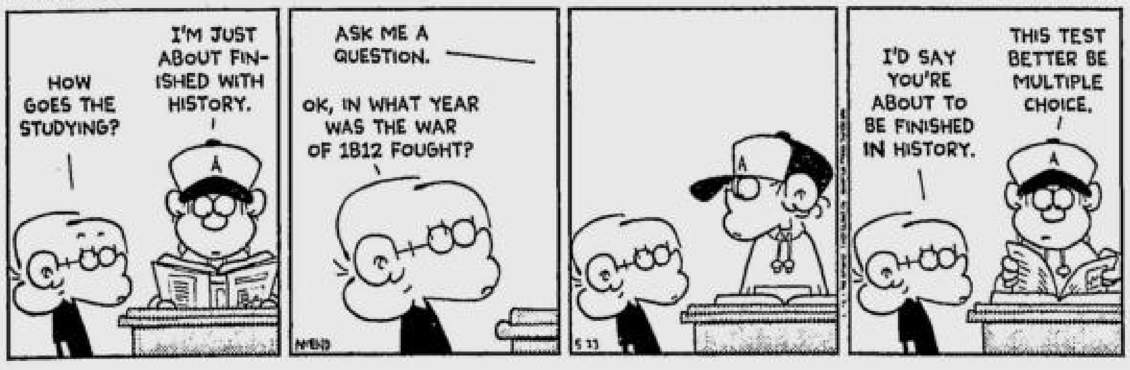
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

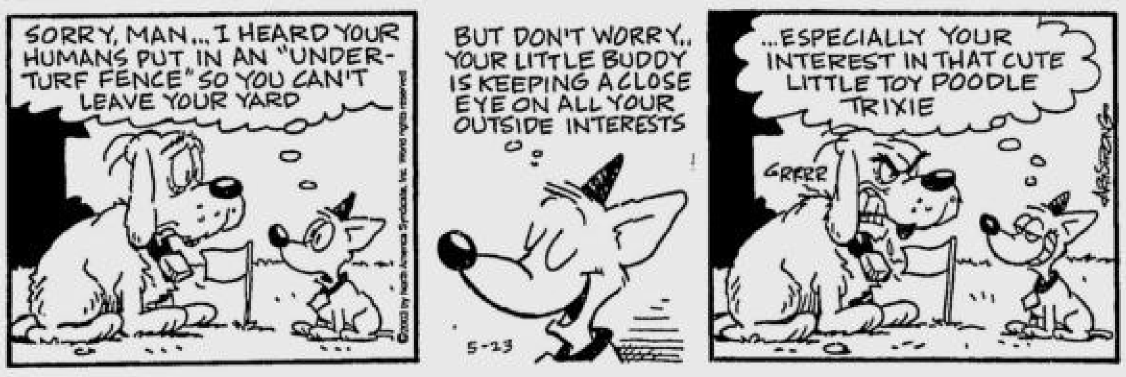
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW GOES THE STUDYING?
I'M JUST ABOUT FINISHED WITH HISTORY.
ASK ME A QUESTION.
OK, IN WHAT YEAR WAS THE WAR OF 1812 FOUGHT?
I'D SAY YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE FINISHED IN HISTORY.
THIS TEST BETTER BE MULTIPLE CHOICE.

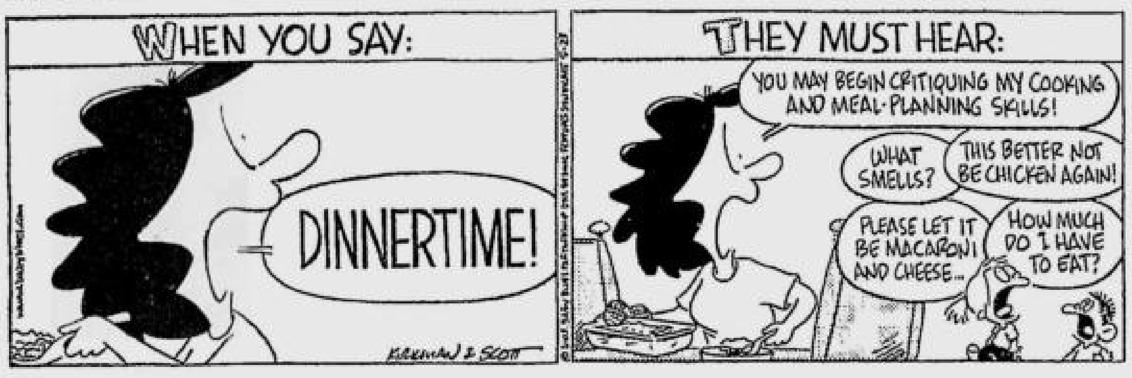
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SORRY, MAN... I HEARD YOUR HUMANS PUT IN AN "UNDER-TURF FENCE" SO YOU CAN'T LEAVE YOUR YARD
BUT DON'T WORRY.. YOUR LITTLE BUDDY IS KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON ALL YOUR OUTSIDE INTERESTS
...ESPECIALLY YOUR INTEREST IN THAT CUTE LITTLE TOY POODLE TRIXIE
GRRRR
5-23

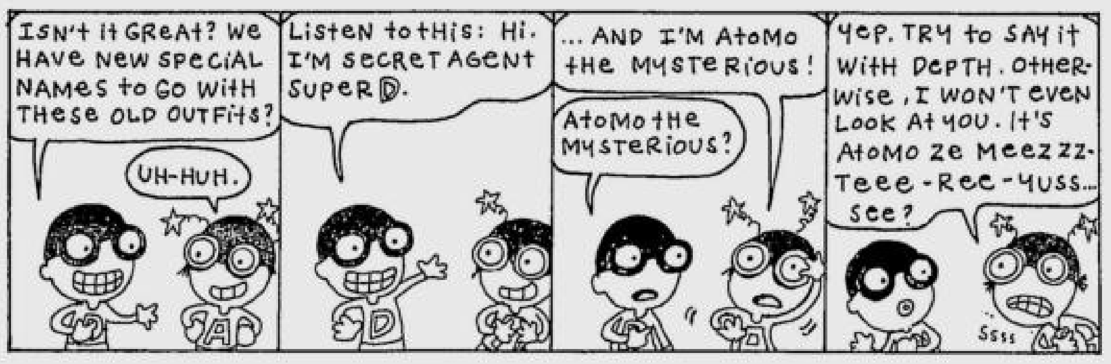
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN YOU SAY:
DINNERTIME!
THEY MUST HEAR:
YOU MAY BEGIN CRITIQUING MY COOKING AND MEAL-PLANNING SKILLS!
WHAT SMELLS?
THIS BETTER NOT BE CHICKEN AGAIN!
PLEASE LET IT BE MACARONI AND CHEESE...
HOW MUCH DO I HAVE TO EAT?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ISN'T IT GREAT? WE HAVE NEW SPECIAL NAMES TO GO WITH THESE OLD OUTFITS?
UH-HUH.
LISTEN TO THIS: HI. I'M SECRET AGENT SUPER D.
... AND I'M ATOMO THE MYSTERIOUS!
ATOMO THE MYSTERIOUS?
YEP. TRY TO SAY IT WITH DEPTH. OTHERWISE, I WON'T EVEN LOOK AT YOU. IT'S ATOMO ZE MEEZZZ-TEEE-REE-YUSS... SEE?
SSSS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are dramatic and seductive. You enjoy attention, and you are certainly convincing. You definitely have sex appeal. You are a good parent. You have a scientific bent; nevertheless, creative activities and the arts please you. Marriage and close relationships are favored this year. Expect a fun social time!
Birthdate of: Drew Carey, comedian/actor; Joan Collins, actress; Jewel, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Avoid overspending on entertainment, children or romantic diversions. It is too easy to go overboard blowing money on fun today. (Not that there is anything wrong with fun.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be careful with real estate deals and family businesses. You might bite off more than you can chew. Make sure you give everything a sober second thought.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel wildly optimistic and encouraged today about something. This is a great state of mind. Nevertheless, don't count your chickens before they hatch.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might feel you have to spend money to keep up with or even help a friend today. Do not be influenced by others when it comes to spending your own hard-earned cash. You're no fool.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Bosses, VIPs and parents might promise more than they can deliver. Whatever is offered to you today, take it with a grain of salt. And definitely expect to settle for less.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Travel plans might be a bit grandiose, don't you think? Don't whip out your plastic just yet. Go over your plans once more before you commit yourself to anything.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your desire to help a friend might get you in hot water. Helping somebody is one thing, but giving away the farm is another. Use caution in all you do. Measure twice; cut once.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Close friends or partners want to promise you the Moon today. You know this isn't possible, and while we're on the subject—it's not made of cheese, either.

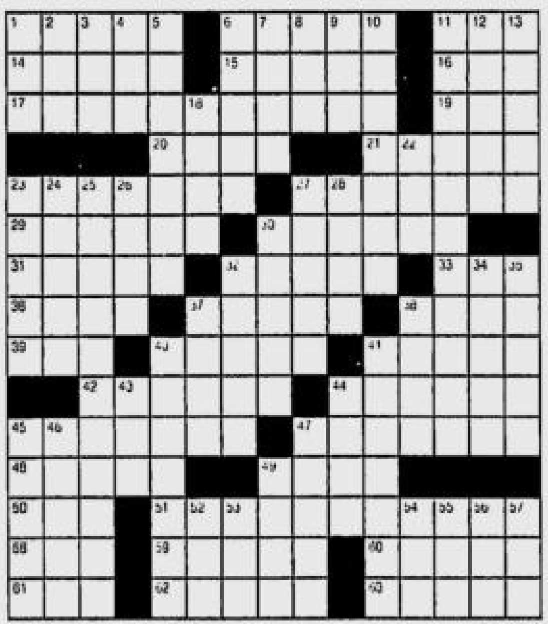
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be conservative with promises or deadlines that you make at work today. It's very easy to overestimate something and end up not being able to deliver on time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a poor day for financial speculation or gambling. It's very easy to second-guess things incorrectly. You can't really trust your hunches right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't make promises to family members that you know you won't be able to keep. And don't make promises to family members that you doubt are really doable.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your optimism about getting things done at work today is remarkable. However, realistically, everything always takes three times longer than you think. (You know that.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

5/23/03

ACROSS
1 G-sharp
6 Germanic god of thunder
11 Large-scale
14 Fang
15 Fred Astaire's sister
16 Lyrical poem
17 "A Christmas Carol" character
19 Storage unit
20 Hammer part
21 Broad tie
23 Is next to
27 J.E.B. and Gilbert
29 Venetian bridge
30 Conundrum
31 Knights' weapons
32 Stick one's neck out
33 T. Turner stn.
36 Son of Seth
37 Bird or Linville
38 Garbage boat
39 Little bit
40 Toy soldier
41 Western resort lake
42 Indistinct vocalization
44 Of the sea
45 Post
47 Changed
48 Felt concern
49 E-mailed
50 Every bit
51 "A Christmas Carol" character
58 Stretch the truth
59 Lucy's landlady
60 Unearthly
61 __ the piper
62 Harvests
63 Take an oath

DOWN
1 $ dispenser
2 In place of
3 __ Alamos, NM
4 Booze, butts and bullets bureau
5 Worst possible situation
6 Stupefies
7 Norse god
8 Fresh
9 Will Smith title role
10 Measure again precisely
11 "A Christmas Carol" character
12 Dunce
13 Chaps
18 Original Stoic
22 Playwright Shepard
23 Carrying a Colt
24 Artemis, to Romans
25 "A Christmas Carol" character
26 Corrida calls
27 Marching drum
28 Diminutive
30 Blunder
32 Acadian in exile
34 Not a soul
35 Twill weave
37 Ritzy ride
38 FDR's mother
40 Football player
41 Squeals
43 Shoshone
44 Bond designation
45 Head skin
46 Shire of "Rocky"
47 Whimpers
49 Straw beehive
52 Social follower?
53 Half a dance?
54 London gardens
55 Rage
56 Long or Peeples
57 Sun. oration

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	U	L	U	█	W	H	A	M	█	E	L	B	O	W
A	P	O	P	█	H	A	R	E	█	L	I	A	N	A
D	O	U	B	L	E	I	N	D	E	M	N	I	T	Y
E	N	D	E	A	R	█	E	A	R	█	G	T	O	S
█	█	█	A	G	E	D	█	L	O	M	E	█	█	█
A	T	I	T	█	V	I	A	█	S	O	R	E	S	T
S	O	L	█	V	E	E	P	S	█	P	I	N	T	O
T	W	O	F	O	R	T	H	E	S	E	E	S	A	W
R	E	N	A	L	█	S	I	X	T	Y	█	U	R	N
O	R	A	N	G	E	█	D	E	R	█	L	E	E	S
█	█	█	B	A	S	E	█	S	A	L	E	█	█	█
E	D	G	E	█	A	S	K	█	T	E	N	T	H	S
D	U	A	L	C	I	T	I	Z	E	N	S	H	I	P
D	E	B	T	S	█	O	L	E	G	█	E	A	S	E
A	T	E	S	T	█	P	O	N	Y	█	S	I	T	E

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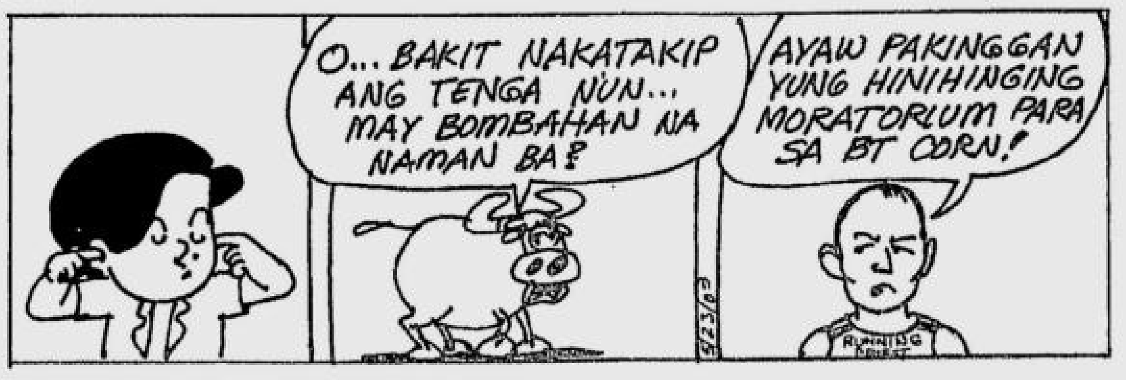
5/23/03

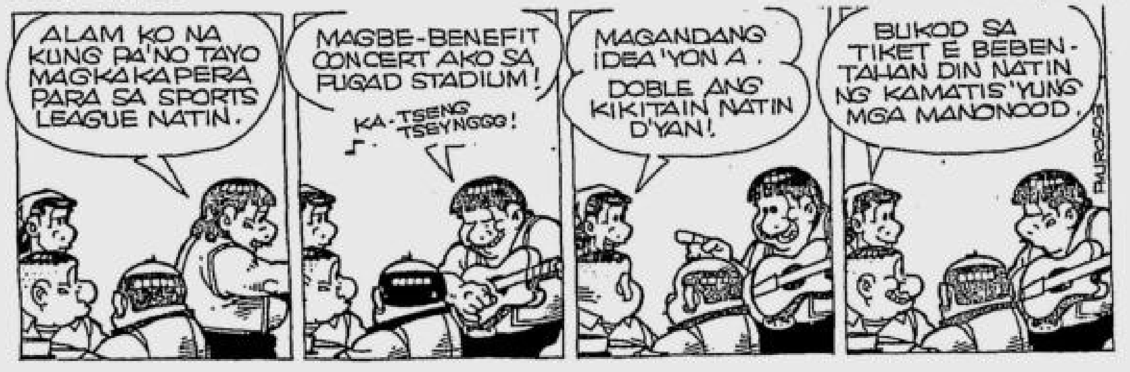
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT NAKATAKIP ANG TENGA NUN... MAY BOMBAHAN NA NAMAN BA?
AYAW PAKINGGAN YUNG HINIHINGING MORATORIUM PARA SA BT CORN!
5/23/03
RUNNING PRIEST

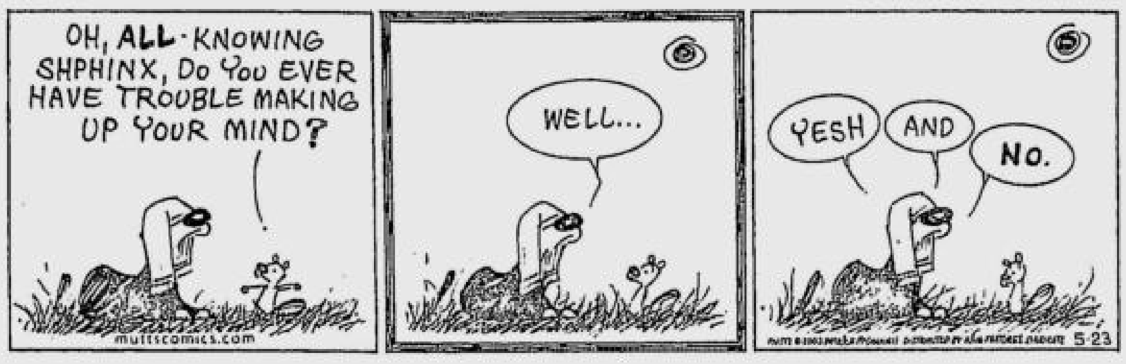
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM KO NA KUNG PA'NO TAYO MAGKAKAPERA PARA SA SPORTS LEAGUE NATIN.
MAGBE-BENEFIT CONCERT AKO SA PUGAD STADIUM!
KA-TSENG TSEYNGGG!
MAGANDANG IDEA 'YON A. DOBLE ANG KIKITAIN NATIN D'YAN!
BUKOD SA TIKET E BEBENTAHAN DIN NATIN NG KAMATIS 'YUNG MGA MANONOOD.
PAJUROSOS

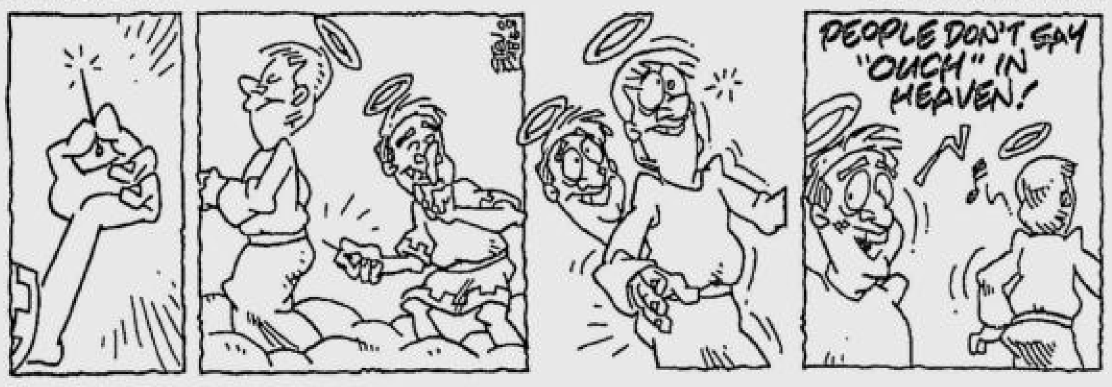
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, ALL-KNOWING SHPHINX, DO YOU EVER HAVE TROUBLE MAKING UP YOUR MIND?
WELL...
YESH
AND
NO.
muttscomics.com
5-23

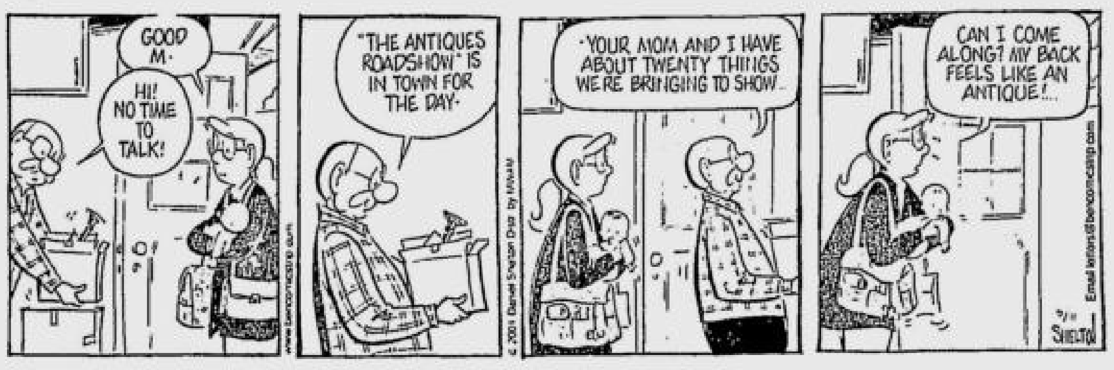
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PEOPLE DON'T SAY "OUCH" IN HEAVEN!

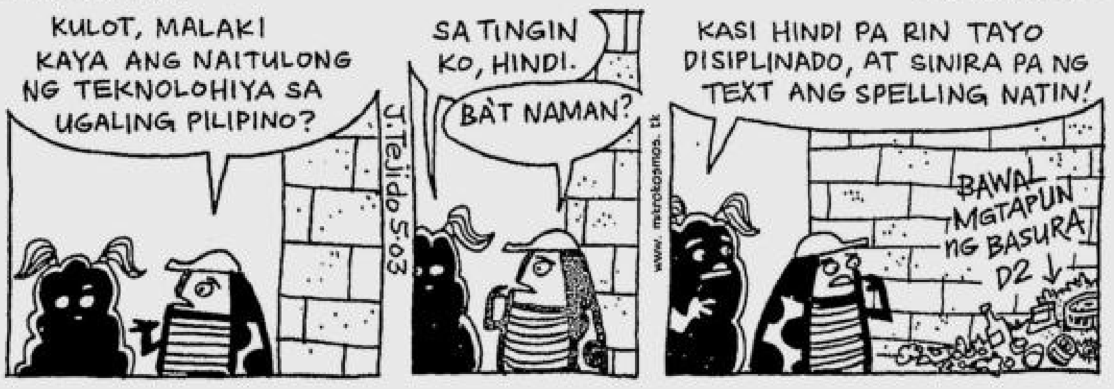
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOOD M-
HI! NO TIME TO TALK!
"THE ANTIQUES ROADSHOW" IS IN TOWN FOR THE DAY-
-YOUR MOM AND I HAVE ABOUT TWENTY THINGS WE'RE BRINGING TO SHOW...
CAN I COME ALONG? MY BACK FEELS LIKE AN ANTIQUE!...
SHELTON

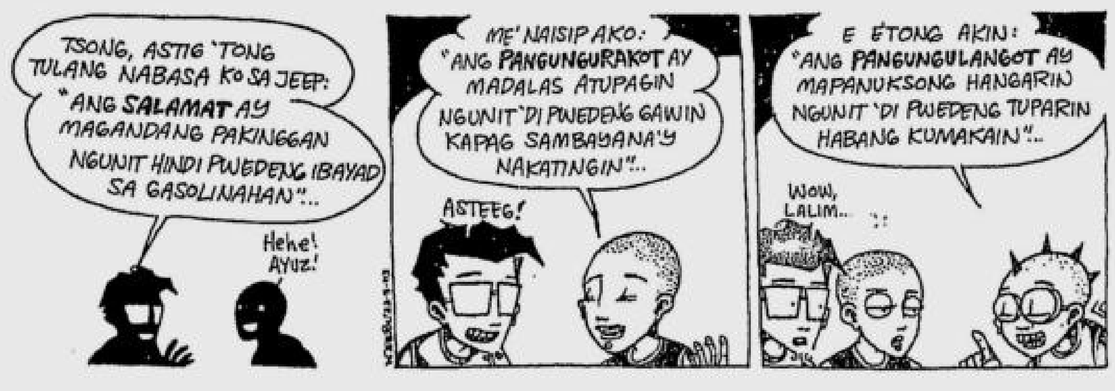
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KULOT, MALAKI KAYA ANG NAITULONG NG TEKNOLOHIYA SA UGALING PILIPINO?
SA TINGIN KO, HINDI.
BAT NAMAN?
KASI HINDI PA RIN TAYO DISIPLINADO, AT SINIRA PA NG TEXT ANG SPELLING NATIN!
BAWAL MGTAPUN NG BASURA D2
J. Tejido 5.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

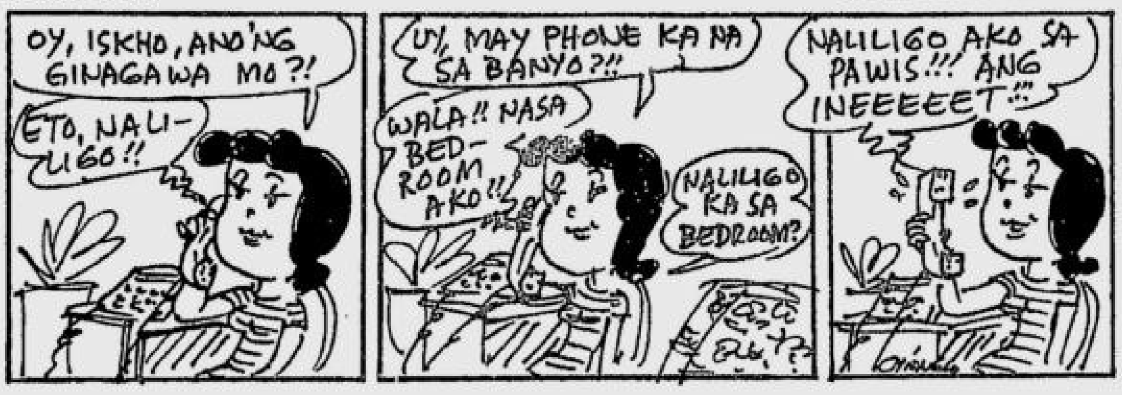
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, ASTIG 'TONG TULANG NABASA KO SA JEEP: "ANG SALAMAT AY MAGANDANG PAKINGGAN NGUNIT HINDI PWEDENG IBAYAD SA GASOLINAHAN"...
Hehe! Ayuz!
ME' NAISIP AKO: "ANG PANGUNGURAKOT AY MADALAS ATUPAGIN NGUNIT 'DI PWEDENG GAWIN KAPAG SAMBAYANA'Y NAKATINGIN"..
ASTEEG!
E ETONG AKIN: "ANG PANGUNGULANGOT AY MAPANUKSONG HANGARIN NGUNIT 'DI PWEDENG TUPARIN HABANG KUMAKAIN"..
WOW, LALIM..

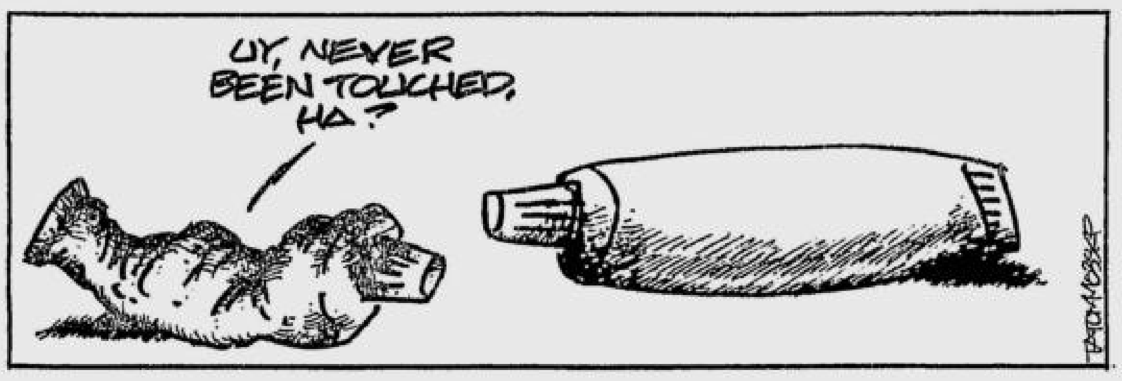
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


OY, ISKHO, ANO'NG GINAGAWA MO?!
ETO, NALILIGO!!
UY, MAY PHONE KA NA SA BANYO?!!
WALA!! NASA BEDROOM AKO!!
NALILIGO KA SA BEDROOM?
NALILIGO AKO SA PAWIS!!! ANG INEEEEEET!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


UY, NEVER BEEN TOUCHED, HA?

Now if only restos could fix the air

GREENBELT 2

Dining lifestyle . . .

From page E1

deviated from the vogue. He played with cubes and geometrics, but this time, not in clean white or neutrals, but in copper tones and the brown of wood. This is echoed from the walls to the ceiling. He's truly mastered the marriage of metal and wood. There's a winding stairway with crystal-clear glass steps (now, what to do when you're in a skirt and don't want to kill the appetite of the diners below).

Conversation material are easily the chandeliers made of glass strip-cut into a wicker pattern. The wooden chairs, banisters and ceiling display Yulo's penchant for lines and curves.

Indeed the design is cutting-edge, as in many restos and cafés these days.

When it comes to food and ambience, today's entrepreneurs are apparently going the extra mile, thanks to the cut-throat competition. A restaurant must give a clear statement—in both cuisine and design, if it is to grab the market's attention.

Nowhere is this more true than in Greenbelt. A few weeks ago we were with **Ricco Ocampo** and **Doris Magsaysay-Ho** at their Kai restaurant, where **Anna Sy's** design is sheer understated elegance, and where the fusion cuisine raises the bar for Japanese cuisine in the country. You should try its oyster tempura, its pork that takes eight hours to cook, its steak cooked on stone.

Then there's 12 designed by **Ed Calma**—another milestone for its design of space and material. And then Nuvo where **Conrad Onglao** and **Ivy Almario** made lighting the design.

Undoubtedly this prime spread in Makati is the epicenter of cool today. It is where architects and designers showcase their philosophy if not their genius, where food entrepreneurs brandish their wallets to prove that they have what it takes to grab the market. One must sink in at least P10 million to join this race, P20 million perhaps on the average.

The dining lifestyle in general, and in Greenbelt in particular, is raising the standards where design aesthetics is concerned. It is also taking Filipinos on a culinary adventure like never before. There is a diversity of offerings, and also levels of quality, from the common to the most innovative, from the mediocre to the almost excellent.

The chic factor in dining has never been as high as it is now, from Makati to Malate.

Which brings us to a basic question: Why is the exhaust in restos all over the metropolis so bad? You come away from ultra-chic places smelling of garlic, onion, teppanyaki and other food you just had. And we're not even talking cigarette smoke here. Your tempura or kebabs is competing with your Baby Bulgari or Acca Kappa, and sometimes the latter is no match to the former.

The exhaust in some restrooms can also be poor.

Obviously, in some cases, the technical/engineering provisions are not on par with the design or culinary quality. That is ironic.

I learned that this is also a source of frustration for some restaurateurs who want so much to do something about the air we dine amid.

Guevara collection

If you want a weekend destination that's off the beaten path, now's the time to check out De La Salle Museum in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The Museum has just acquired the considerable Filipiniana collection of the Guevara family.

According to **Joey Panlilio**, the culture lover who painstakingly put together this landmark for the Foundation, the heirs of **Domingo** and **Carmen Guevara** donated the furniture and furnishing collection of their parents. In the '70s and early '80s, this collection indicative of the Filipino *ilustrado* lifestyle was housed in the Museo ng Bahay Filipino in Parañaque.

Domingo was an industrialist ahead of his time (DMG) and Carmen was a leader in the Ikebana and gardening circles.

The Museum now has 700 pieces from the Guevara collection, from furniture, home accessories to fabrics. Some of them are on display, others are still in storage. Joey will have everything fixed for the formal opening in July.

Meanwhile, the ground floor of the Museum also has the icon collection of **Vicky Amalingan**, from the 19th century onwards, from Bohol and Luzon. These include the "Pintakasi," "Santisima Trinidad" and "Santo Entiero."

Also still on display in the Museum are the *ternos* designed by **Pura Escurdia**, **Victoria Galang** and **Ramon Valera**. Design students will learn a great deal from these design masters.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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Oooh~ la-lamb!

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Lamb is a traditional element of diverse cuisines, used in different dishes from many parts of the world. It can be roasted, baked, grilled, stewed, braised and so on. Australian lamb is used in appetizers, pasta dishes, salads and crepes. The possibilities Australian lamb offers are endless --- and are just waiting to be discovered.

Oooh-La-Lamb!

This May, 40 restaurants, hotels and retail chains are taking part in "Oooh-La-Lamb!", a month-long Australian Lamb Festival. Chefs of the select restaurants and hotels are offering specially created Australian lamb dishes for diners. Participating retail chains are offering Australian lamb cuts.

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Get a Taste of Delicious Australian Lamb Dishes.

SALA
MAMMA
Appetizer Moussaka Tartlet

Malate will seem like nirvana to lamb lovers with so many succulent Australian lamb dishes to choose from! You could start at either **Mamma** or **Sala** along J. Nakpil Street with Moussaka Tartlet, a delightful appetizer made with flavoursome Australian lamb, among other choices.

people's palace
Australian Lamb Shank in Mussaman Curry

Moving on to **People's Palace** on the same street, you must have Australian Lamb Shank in Mussaman Curry for your main course unless you're tempted by other equally tantalizing Australian lamb dishes on the menu!

Patio Guernica

Patio Guernica along Jorge Bocobo Street corner Remedios Circle could serve as the next stop. An exquisite Spanish restaurant, Patio Guernica serves authentic Spanish cuisine, while a variety of seafood and steaks complete its tempting menu. Here you could discover more Australian lamb delights including Classic Recipe Roast Leg of Australian Lamb --- sliced roasted leg of lamb, served with fried potatoes, vegetables, gravy and mint. All while listening to lively Spanish music!

PORTICO
1771
Australian Lamb Shank Osso Bucco with Sweet Pea and Carrot Risotto

Meanwhile at 1771 M. Adriatico Street, **Portico** celebrates the Australian Lamb Festival with Australian Lamb Shank Osso Bucco with Sweet Pea and Carrot Risotto, among other Australian lamb specialties.

The Flavour of Australia also finds its way to Intramuros. **Ilustrado Restaurant** offers its patrons many mouth-watering Australian lamb dishes, one of which is Australian Lamb Leg in Pommery Mustard Crust with Banana Blossom and Brown Sauce ---roasted Australian lamb leg bathed in Pommery mustard and herbs, served very thinly sliced with brown sauce flavored with port wine and banana blossom.

ILUSTRADO
Australian Lamb Leg in Pommery Mustard Crust

If you're a serious lamb lover, The Australian Lamb Festival is a chance to be reunited with your favorite dishes. For those who have never tried Australian lamb, it's the chance to discover love at first bite.

Woman of substance celebrates

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

MADRIGAL sisters, Chito and Ising

EVEN the weather gods cooperated with society doyenne, **Consuelo "Chito" Madrigal Collantes**, who celebrated her birthday Sunday evening at her Forbes Park residence.

It might have been raining along Edsa but not in her garden, which was transformed by designer **Boysie Villavicencio** into a lush tropical setting filled with huge crab claws, birds of paradise and other wild flowering plants. Other honorees that night were **Danny Vasquez**, who is married to **Ising Madrigal**, and the lovely **Baby Cruz**, who is also known as the Jewelmer woman.

The evening was hot and humid, and guests cooled down with glasses of sparkling Dom Perignon and Perrier Jouet champagne. Live music was provided by Spirit of '67 led by vocalists cum businessmen **Johnny Velasquez** and **Candy Dizon**.

Beige tents were set up in strategic areas in the garden complete with hanging crystal chandeliers to illuminate the round tables. The food selection was a gourmand's dream from Caesar salad, tempura, roast beef, *lechon* and a wide selection of sumptuous desserts.

The 300-plus guest list included the country's top movers and shakers: scions to bankers; vintage and new names in the social register; friends from abroad and the diplomatic corps; and politicians led by Senators **Loren Legarda** and **Tito Sotto**. The evening's dress code was smart casual.

JOSE Mari Chan and wife, Mary Anne Ansaldo, Baby Cruz, Maripi Muscat and Johnny Velasquez

Two ladies wearing Roberto Cavalli outfits caught our eye—**Doodie Tuason** and **Elma Santander**. Elma, who lives in the Big Apple, says the Italian designer is a hit with Manhattan fashionistas who favor Italian over French fashion this season. Fashion has gone political with a vengeance due to America's disagreement with French and German leaders over the handling of the Iraq war.

Everyone came to greet the celebrator, who is affectionately addressed as Tita Chito, a papal awardee, banker, philanthropist, golfer, best-dressed woman of the country and much more. To know more about her one has to read the coffee-table book "Picture Me," if it is still available, edited by **Chitang Guerrero Nakpil**. It is a pictorial essay about a charmed life and her development into a woman of substance.

Hail to Tita Chito!

IMELDA Marcos with nephew Martin Romualdez and brother Kokoy Romualdez

MUNDING and Zita Feliciano flank Wendy Purcell and Ofie Recto.

AMBASSADOR Manuel Yan, Teroy and Lorna Laurel with Vicente and Ruby Roxas

DANNY Vasquez and Dondi Teehankee

ELMA Santander

DR. RANDY Francisco

LIZZA Nakpil and Irene Araneta

ADO Escudero with Boling and Vicente Reyes

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Apples Aberin-Sadhwani is back with fashion advice

p. F4

Vicky Zubiri's vibrant, zesty style

By Anton San Diego

UPON meeting Vicky Zubiri for the first time, one is struck not only by her beauty but also her charm and way of looking at life. She is able to balance her life as mother, wife and businesswoman with such ease that nothing seems to faze her.

STYLE EYES

She remains always positive, poised and perfect. She is virtually a light bulb, illuminating a room wherever she goes.

No one believes that she is a mother of five, with the youngest, Stephanie, about to graduate from high school. Vicky has managed to keep her youthful glow, serenity, figure and looks.

Vicky's sense of style, like her personality, is fun. Even when she is at a formal event, she chooses color and drama to accentuate her vivacious personality.

VICKY/ F2

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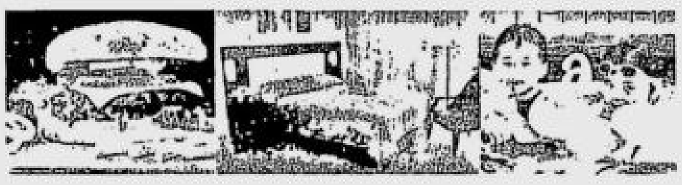

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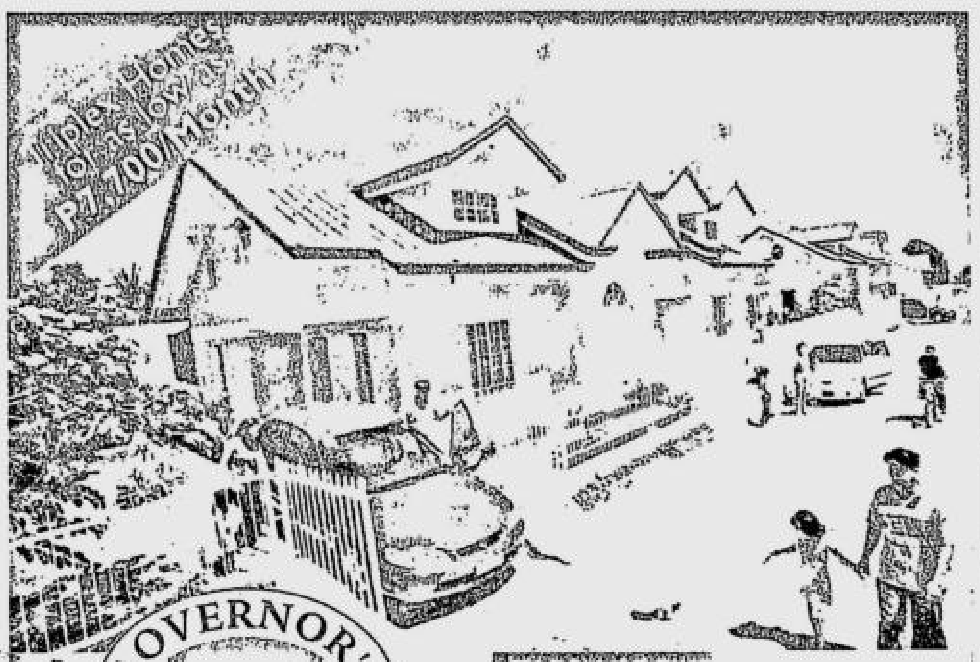

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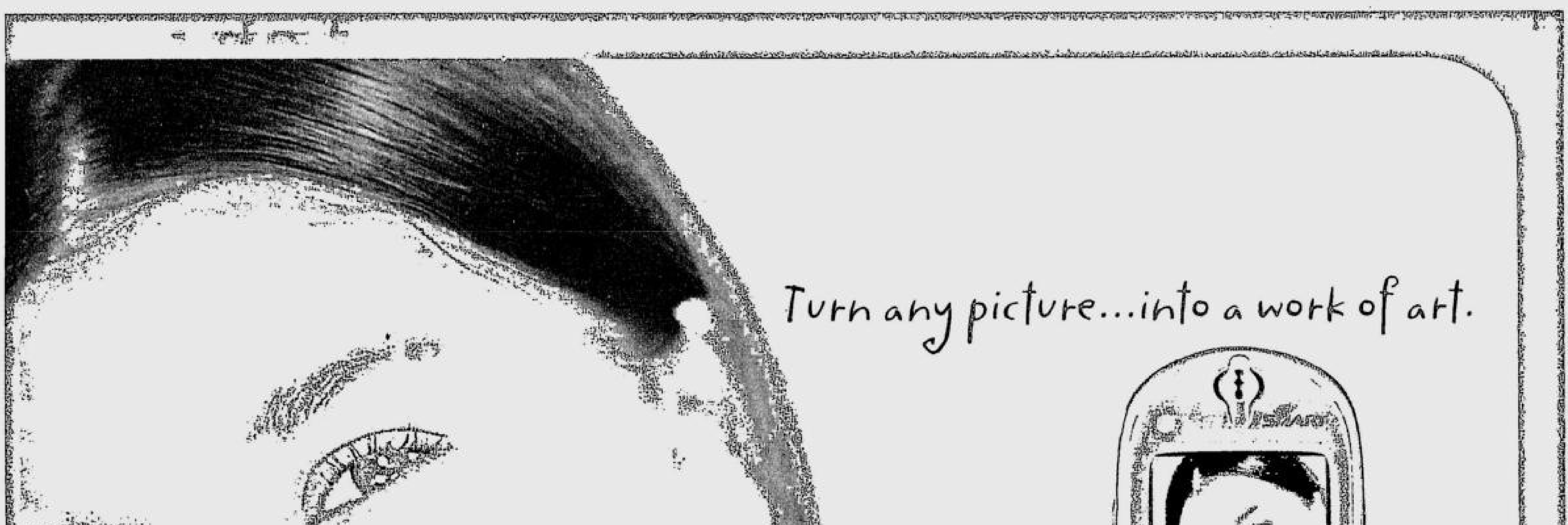

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AT HOME. Wearing Bebe T-shirt and a local sarong

> 'My mother taught me how to be confident and look my best all the time, even at home'

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE. Vicky's top and jeans by Ossetra of Argentina

COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE TATLER

Vicky Zubiri's vibrant, zesty style

CHIC CHART

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Soap: Erno Lazlo
Scent: Joy by Jean Patou

Makeup

Lipstick: Chanel Glossimer
Moisturizer: Elizabeth Arden ceramide, Marcella Borghese and Sisleya
Blush: Bourgois and Chanel
Foundation: Estée Lauder
Eye shadow/Mascara: Chanel and Maybelline
Sunscreen: Clarins

Clothes

Jeans: Cavalli, Bebe and Bisou Bisou
Top: Armani, Dolce e Gabbana and Morgan
T-shirt: Bebe, Benetton and Gap
Pajamas: Victoria's Secret
Lingerie: Victoria's Secret

Accessories

Handbag: Gucci, Chanel and Dior
Watch: Cartier Pasha, Bulgari, Swatch and Technomarine
Shoes: YSL, Charles Jourdan, Christian Loubotin and Michel Perry
Sneakers: Nike

Hi-tech

Mobile phone: Nokia
Computer: Compaq
TV: Mitsubishi

Others

Restaurant: Sugi, Kai and Cibo
Bottled water: Evian and Wilkins
Florist: Mabolo and Toni Parson
Soda: Diet Sarsi or Coke Light
Gym: Fitness Advantage and Fitness First
Magazine: Vogue, In Style, Wall Paper, ll

From page F1

When I interviewed this week's subject on what is her most marked characteristic, she answered, "My joie de vivre, my being a happy person who makes others happy." Those who know Vicky can attest to that.

This is Vicky Zubiri's style.

How do you define style?

Style is fashion and breeding, and dressing in a casual, elegant and chic manner.

Describe your personal style.

Ever since I was a little girl, I was always conscious of dressing well, of lovely clothes, beautiful shoes, bags and accessories. Above all, my mother taught me how to be confident and look my best all the time, even at home.

Do you think you are stylish?

I would like to think so... in my own personal style.

If you were to make a best-dressed list, who would be on it? I'll choose from the young ladies—Samantha Eduque, Patricia Cu-Unjieng, Wendy Puyat-Hotung, Celine Lopez and my daughter Stephanie.

Who do you think is a stylish man?

Maurice Arcache and my son Miguel. Also, Tim Yap for his fun way of dressing.

Who are your favorite local/ international designers?

Filipiniana: Pitoy Moreno; classic: Joe Salazar and Inno Sotto; youthful: Rajo Laurel; international: Christian Lacroix, John Galliano, Jean Paul Gaultier and Dolce e Gabbana

If you could have a makeover, whose style would you emulate?

Jennifer Lopez, for her fun clothes during the day, and classic and elegant look in the evening.

What did you wear on your wedding day?

A beautiful *terno* created by a great Filipino designer, Pedrito Legaspi.

What is your biggest extravagance?

Traveling.

Beauty secret or regimen?

I've been using Ponds and Elizabeth Arden creams since I was 18. Also, I go to the gym three to four times a week and do aerobics, yoga and weights.

If you could have access to anyone's wardrobe, whose would it be?

Jennifer Lopez and Nicole Kidman.

What has been your biggest fashion faux pas?

Shoulder pads and boldly streaked hair.

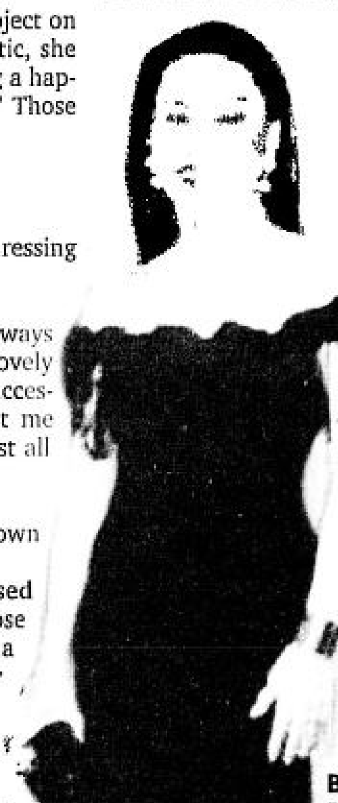
What is on your wish list right now?

To go on a safari in Morocco and South Africa dressed like Ava Gardner in the movie "Mogambo."

Which era would you have wanted to live and dress in?

The Victorian era.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com



BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL Vicky in a Max Azria

DRESSED TO THRILL. Vicky wearing Jean Paul Gaultier

FLOWER POWER. Dress by Dolce e Gabbana

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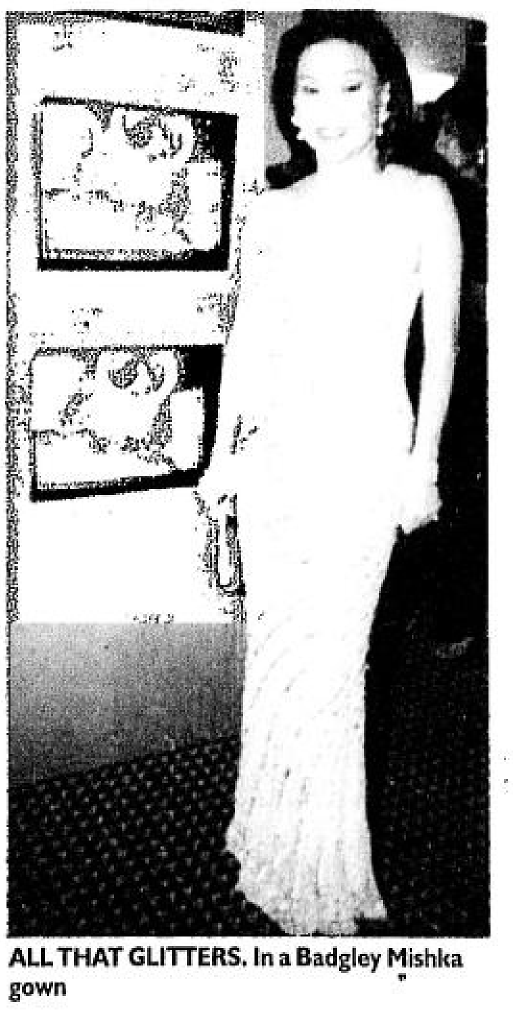
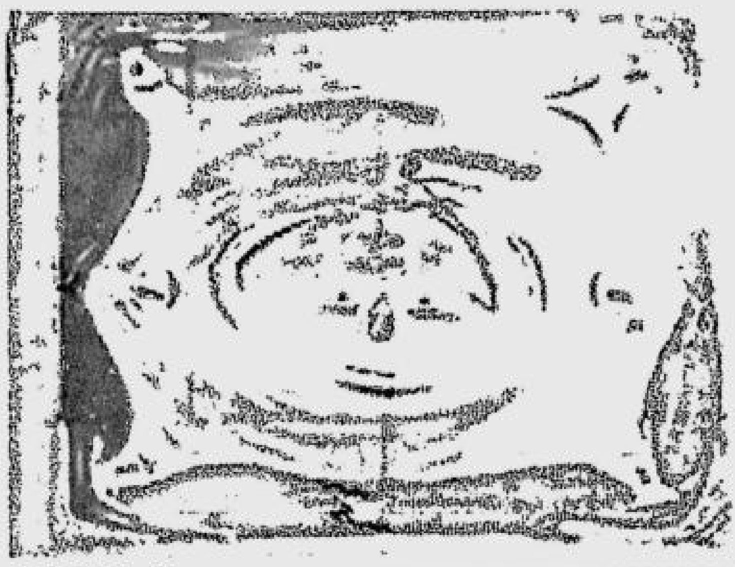
MOTHER AND DAUGHTER. Vicky with daughter Stephanie both wearing Pitoy Moreno Filipiniana gowns.

PHOTO BY RUPERT JACINTO



ALL THAT GLITTERS. In a Badgley Mishka gown

How to travel light . . .



SCARVES by Hermes

PHOTOS FROM ZUMBADOR.COM AND YAHOO.COM

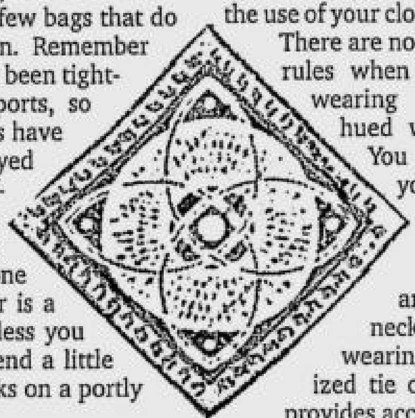
From page F4

Go ahead, get fancy and imaginative with your scarves

shopping so you will need extra space for your new things.

A friend in the US said that as a rule, members of her family are only allowed to bring luggage that they can lift and handle. Although this is quite practical, I could not apply the rule to my co-travelers as half of them were minors and not hefty enough to lug their own bags. So, a strong he-man type of a male companion, such as a loving husband, father, brother or beau, who has no choice but to carry your load, is the perfect companion at this time.

Kidding aside, it is a lot wiser to travel with a few bags that do not weigh a ton. Remember that security has been tightened in all airports, so you must always have your bags x-rayed or inspected after tagging them. Lugging them from one place to another is a major chore unless you are ready to spend a little more green bucks on a portly porter.



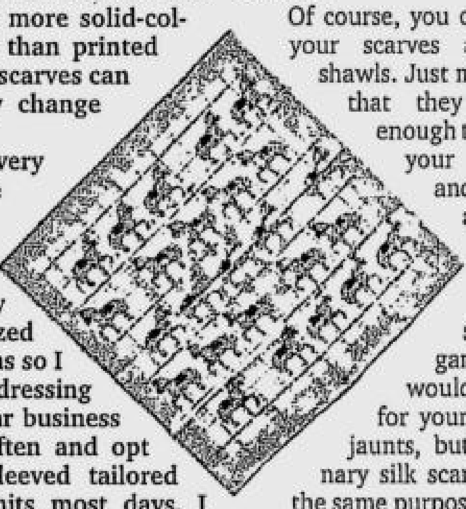
It is also ultra-convenient to pack clothing that do not wrinkle easily. And just in case you need to remove creases, simply turn on your shower, make sure the water is piping hot and steam your articles of clothing in the bathroom.

Finally, always pack your most comfortable pair of shoes. You will definitely do a lot of walking, especially in cities like New York so shod your feet in sensible shoes, be they loafers, boots, sneakers or rubber shoes, that can take you from one city block to the next.

Scarves

I have accumulated a number of scarves of all sizes over the years. They seem to be a favorite gift and *pasalubong* from friends who travel. I tend to purchase more solid-colored rather than printed clothes and scarves can immediately change their look.

I am a very conservative business executive in my 30s. My company has downsized its operations so I have been dressing down. I wear business suits less often and opt for short sleeved tailored shirts or knits most days. I have several questions about scarves:



- **Is it okay to wear a scarf under the collar of a short-sleeved shirt or should it be worn over the collar?**
- **Can I wear scarves with knits?**
- **Is it okay to wear scarves as shawls, especially if I have to go out at night after office hours?**
- **With what clothes is it inappropriate to wear scarves?**

Wearing scarves is a wonderful way of updating your look. They can add color and feminine flourish, thus increasing your style factor. What's more, they can make your articles of clothing look different and new, allowing you to maximize the use of your clothes.

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to wearing your multi-hued wisps of silk. You may wear your scarf over and around your collar or under and around your neck. In fact, wearing it like a stylized tie or neckerchief provides accent and eliminates the need for a necklace.

Choose colors that complement your skin tone, so it can harmonize and draw attention to your face.

You may also wear your scarves on different occasions matched with almost anything from knits, denims and even evening wear. Get as creative as you want to be. For instance, why not wear a simple T, jeans, loafers and a scarf worn as a belt on casual weekends?

For dressy occasions and evenings out, you can even wear it as a halter-top. In the movie "Swept Away," Madonna wore a beautiful Hermes silk scarf as such, matched with white pants and gold jewelry. She looked especially stylish and unique, so she boosted the sales of that particular scarf.

Of course, you can also use your scarves as evening shawls. Just make certain that they are long enough to go around your shoulders and that they are more formal in fabric and design. An organza scarf would be perfect for your after-office jaunts, but your ordinary silk scarf will serve the same purpose, as long as the affair you are attending is not very formal.

Nothing is ever inappropriate as long as you feel good about what you are wearing. But if you are unsure of yourself, it always helps to ask the opinion of a trusted friend.

Go ahead and get fancy, imaginative and playful with your scarves. And although you are quite conservative, don't be afraid to try new things. Enjoy!

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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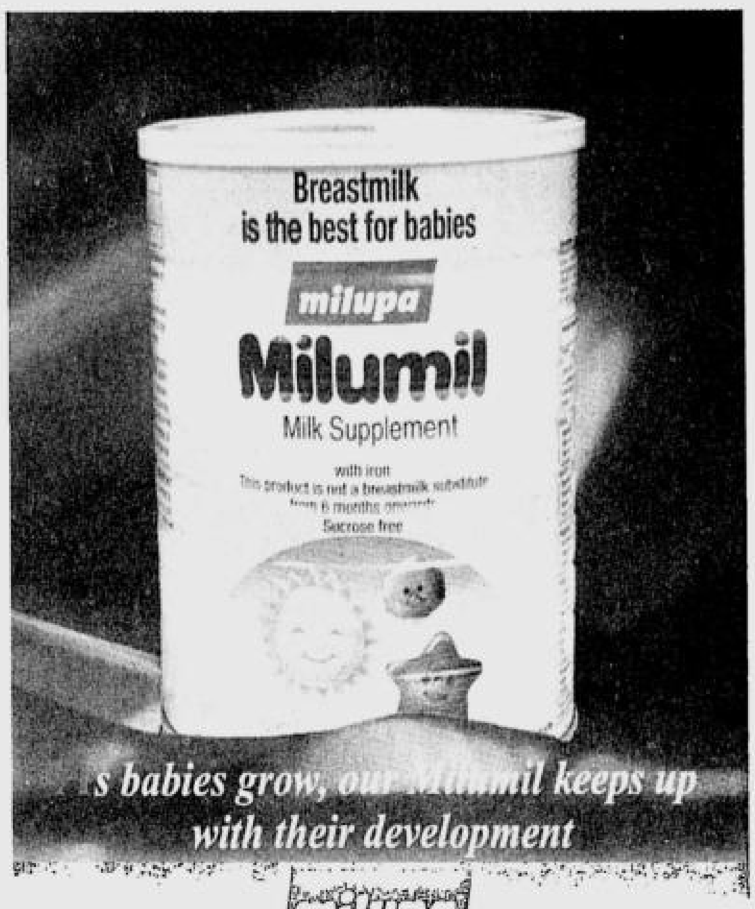

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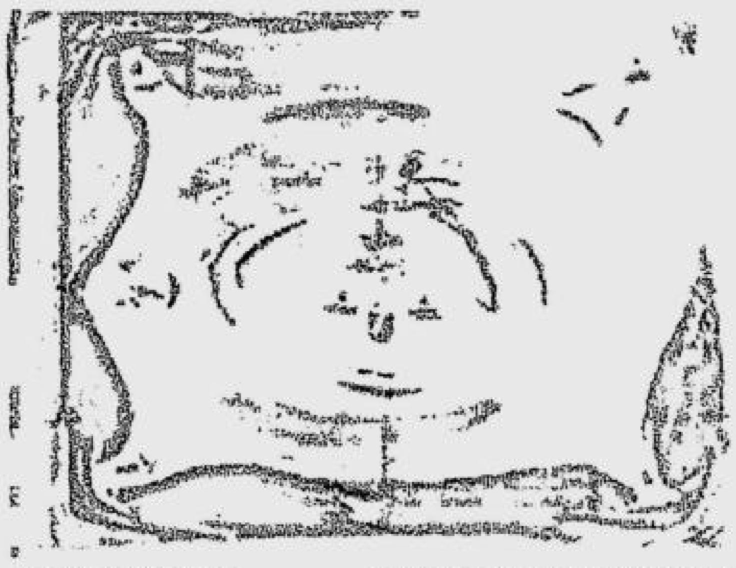
How to travel light . . .



SCARVES by Hermes

PHOTOS FROM ZUMBADOR.COM AND YAHOO.COM

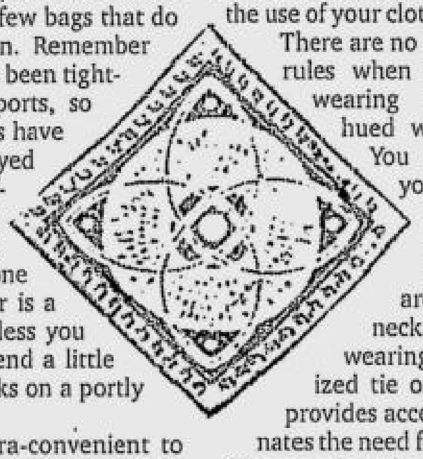
From page F4

Go ahead,
get fancy
and imaginative
with your scarves

shopping so you will need extra space for your new things.

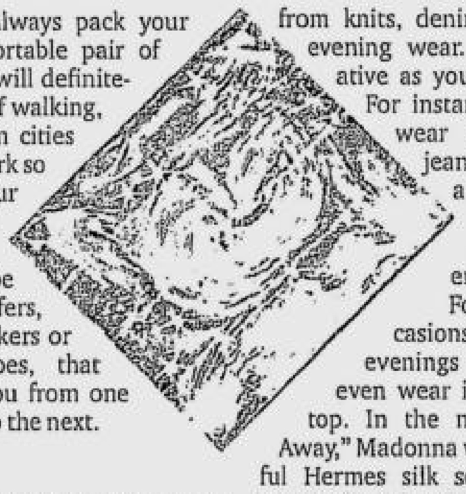
A friend in the US said that as a rule, members of her family are only allowed to bring luggage that they can lift and handle. Although this is quite practical, I could not apply the rule to my co-travelers as half of them were minors and not hefty enough to lug their own bags. So, a strong he-man type of a male companion, such as a loving husband, father, brother or beau, who has no choice but to carry your load, is the perfect companion at this time.

Kidding aside, it is a lot wiser to travel with a few bags that do not weigh a ton. Remember that security has been tightened in all airports, so you must always have your bags x-rayed or inspected after tagging them. Lugging them from one place to another is a major chore unless you are ready to spend a little more green bucks on a portly porter.



It is also ultra-convenient to pack clothing that do not wrinkle easily. And just in case you need to remove creases, simply turn on your shower, make sure the water is piping hot and steam your articles of clothing in the bathroom.

Finally, always pack your most comfortable pair of shoes. You will definitely do a lot of walking, especially in cities like New York so shod your feet in sensible shoes, be they loafers, boots, sneakers or rubber shoes, that can take you from one city block to the next.

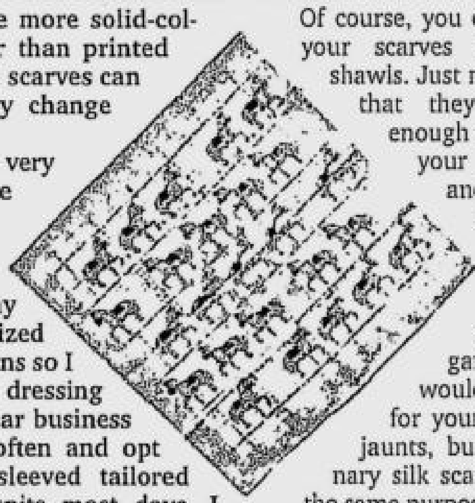


Scarves

I have accumulated a number of scarves of all sizes over the years. They seem to be a favorite gift and *pasalubong* from friends who travel. I tend to purchase more solid-colored rather than printed clothes and scarves can immediately change their look.

I am a very conservative business executive in my 30s. My company has downsized its operations so I have been dressing down. I wear business suits less often and opt for short sleeved tailored shirts or knits most days. I have several questions about scarves:

- Is it okay to wear a scarf under the collar of a short-sleeved shirt or should it be worn over the collar?
- Can I wear scarves with knits?
- Is it okay to wear scarves as shawls, especially if I have to go out at night after office hours?
- With what clothes is it inappropriate to wear scarves?



Wearing scarves is a wonderful way of updating your look. They can add color and feminine flourish, thus increasing your style factor. What's more, they can make your articles of clothing look different and new, allowing you to maximize the use of your clothes.

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to wearing your multi-hued wisps of silk. You may wear your scarf over and around your collar or under and around your neck. In fact, wearing it like a stylized tie or neckerchief provides accent and eliminates the need for a necklace. Choose colors that complement your skin tone, so it can harmonize and draw attention to your face.

You may also wear your scarves on different occasions matched with almost anything from knits, denims and even evening wear. Get as creative as you want to be. For instance, why not wear a simple T, jeans, loafers and a scarf worn as a belt on casual weekends?

For dressy occasions and evenings out, you can even wear it as a halter-top. In the movie "Swept Away," Madonna wore a beautiful Hermes silk scarf as such, matched with white pants and gold jewelry. She looked especially stylish and unique, so she boosted the sales of that particular scarf.

Of course, you can also use your scarves as evening shawls. Just make certain that they are long enough to go around your shoulders and that they are more formal in fabric and design. An organza scarf would be perfect for your after-office jaunts, but your ordinary silk scarf will serve the same purpose, as long as the affair you are attending is not very formal.

Nothing is ever inappropriate as long as you feel good about what you are wearing. But if you are unsure of yourself, it always helps to ask the opinion of a trusted friend.

Go ahead and get fancy, imaginative and playful with your scarves. And although you are quite conservative, don't be afraid to try new things. Enjoy!

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

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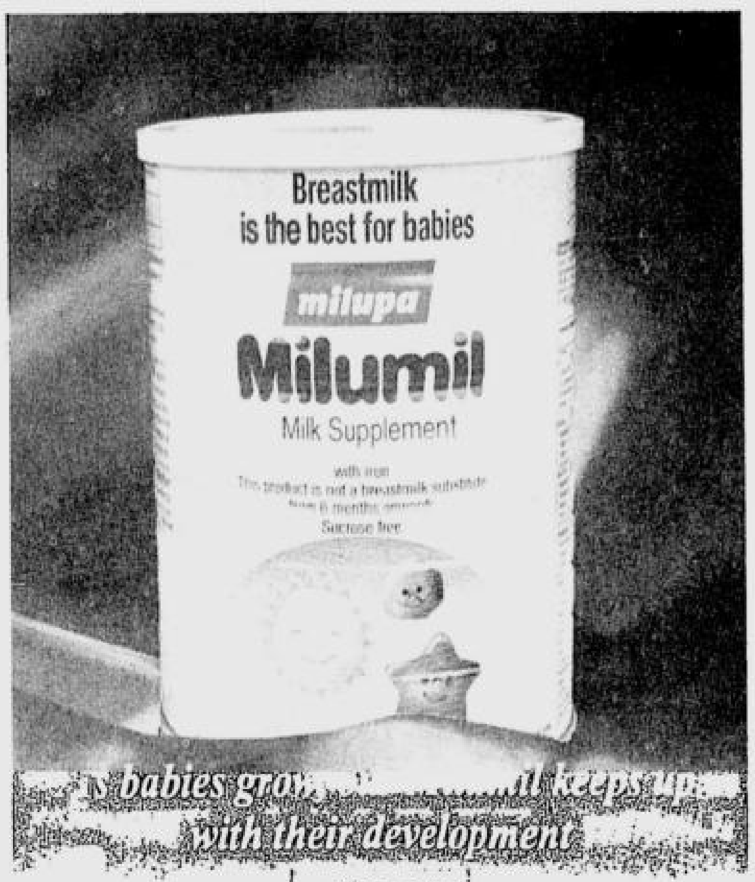

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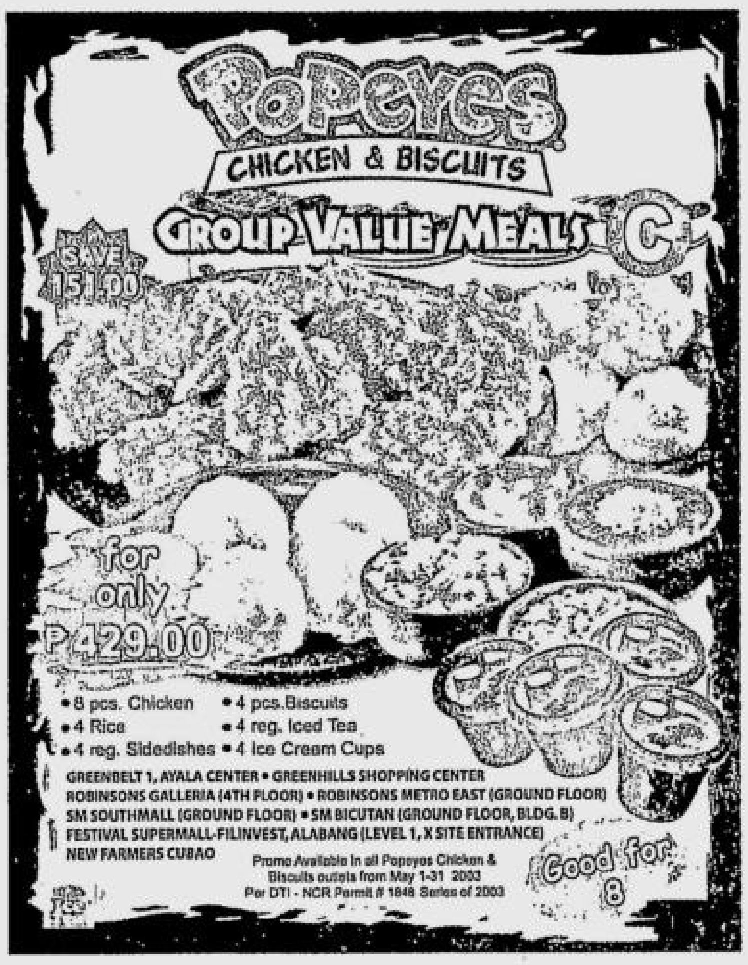

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- 4 Rice
- 4 reg. Iced Tea
- 4 reg. Sidedishes
- 4 Ice Cream Cups

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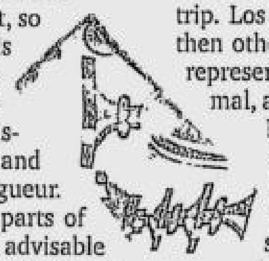
How to travel light and accessorize with scarves

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

AFTER being away for five weeks, I am back, eager and ready to answer all your fashion dilemmas. But first, let me share with you some practical fashion travel tips I gathered during my trip.

My family and I moved around seven US cities in a short time frame so it was of utmost importance to pack clothing to suit the different types of weather in the various regions. For instance, Honolulu and Orlando were warm, sometimes even hot, so shorts, tank tops and sandals were perfect outfits. San Francisco and New York, on the other hand, were quite cold and blustery. A warm sweater, jacket and closed shoes or boots were de rigueur.



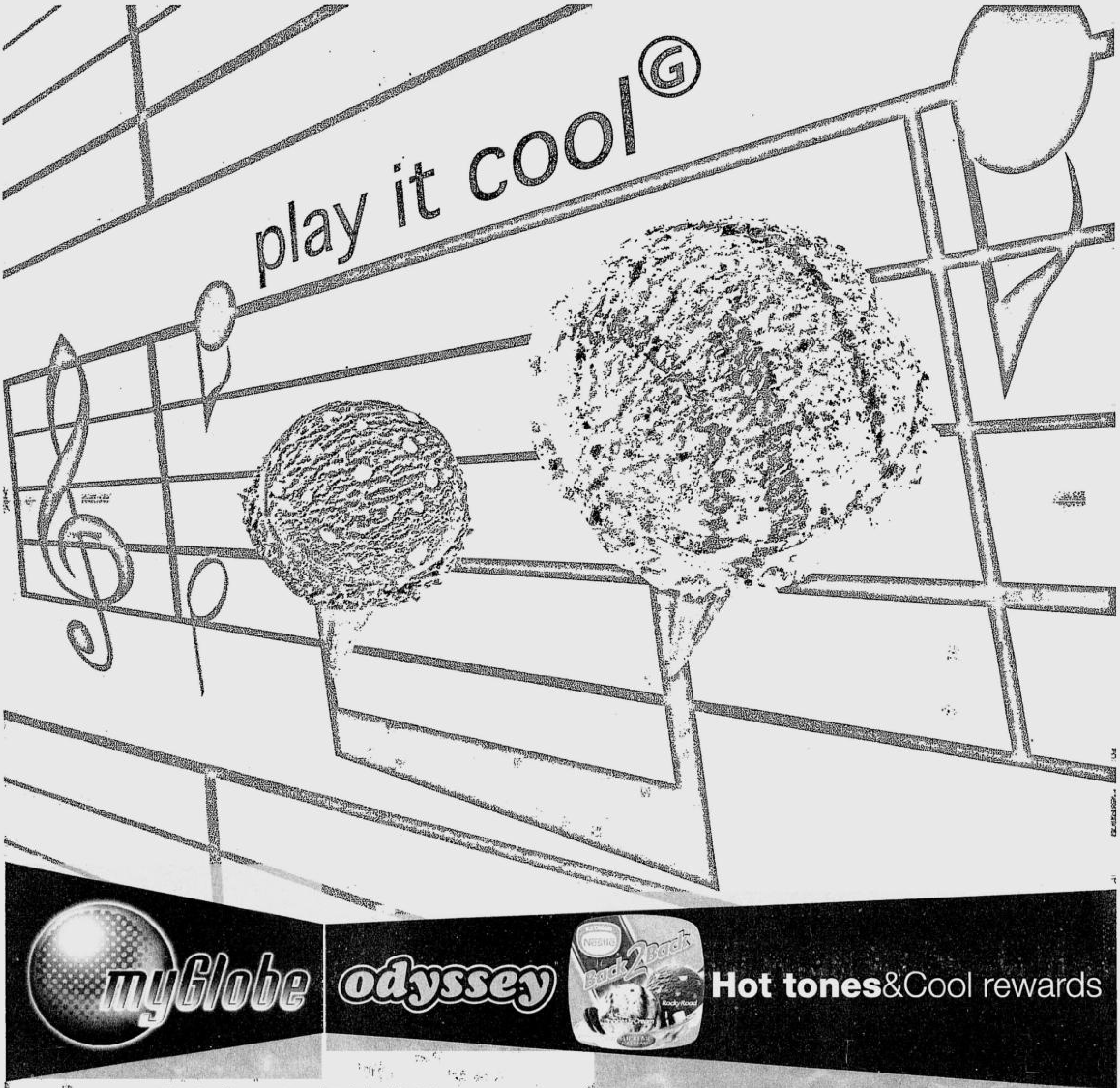
When traveling to different parts of the US or the world, it is always advisable to check the weather ahead of time so you can pack and dress accordingly.

Regional dress codes should also be a consideration, especially if you are on a business trip. Los Angeles is generally more laidback then other cities but if the company you are representing and meeting with is rather formal, a power suit will serve you well.

Meanwhile, denizens of New York and San Francisco obviously enjoy, live and breathe fashion. Majority of the population in these places are stylishly dressed so if you are a fashionista traveling to these locales, go ahead and express your most fashionable, even adventurous, side.

It's also convenient to pack lightly. Bring outfits, bags and shoes that mix and match so you can limit the number of clothing you are bringing. Plus, you will probably do a bit of

HOW/ F3



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Work It – Nelly	G8
Mesmerize – Ja Rule	G9
Somewhere I Belong – Linkin Park	G10
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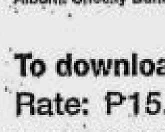
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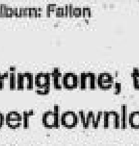
Album: Cheeky Dance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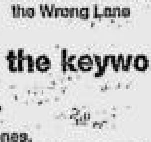
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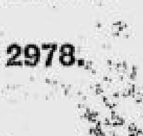
Album : 200 Kmh In the Wrong Lane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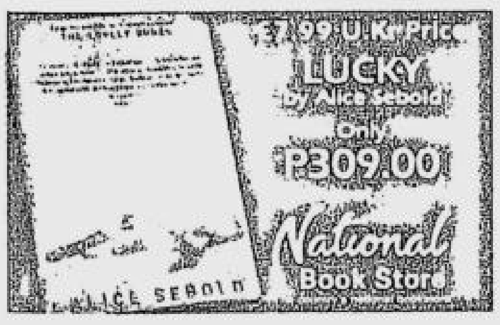
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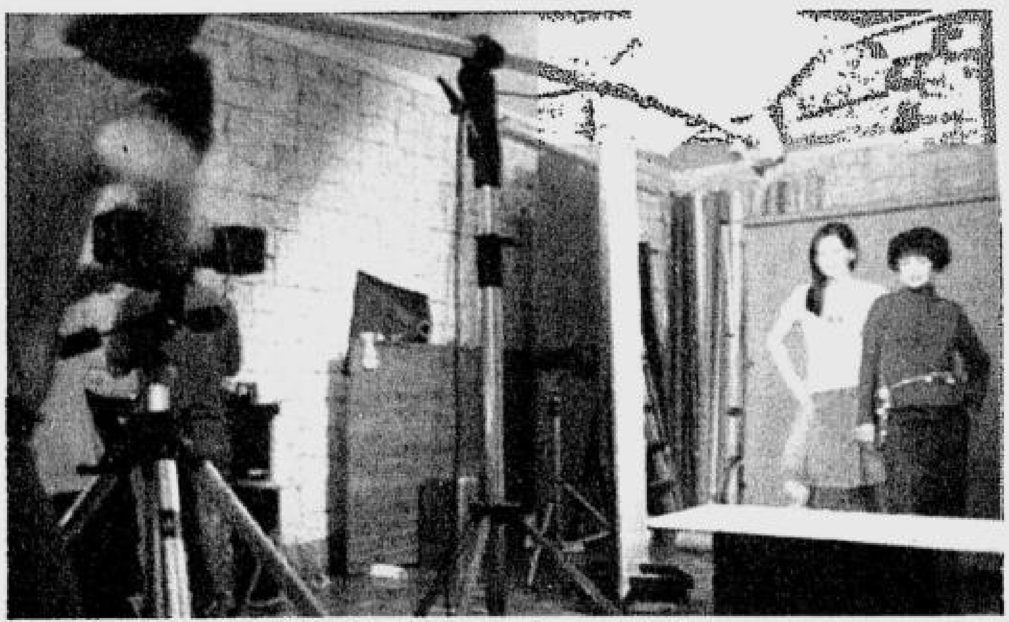

ROSAL and Torres-Gomez ham it up for lensman Ronnie Salvacion.

Rosa Rosal is now ready for her close-up with Lucy Torres-Gomez

STORY ON PAGE G2

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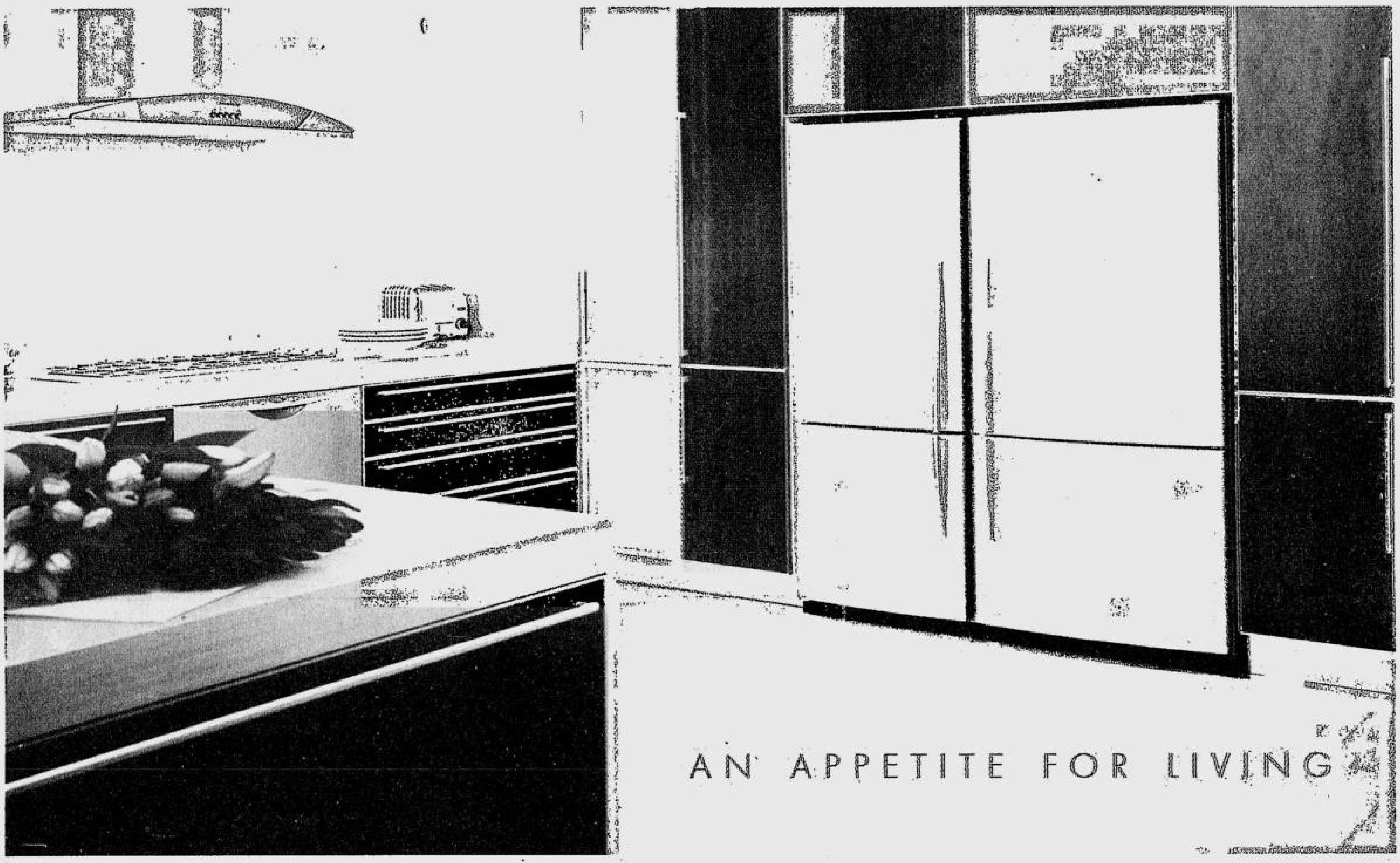
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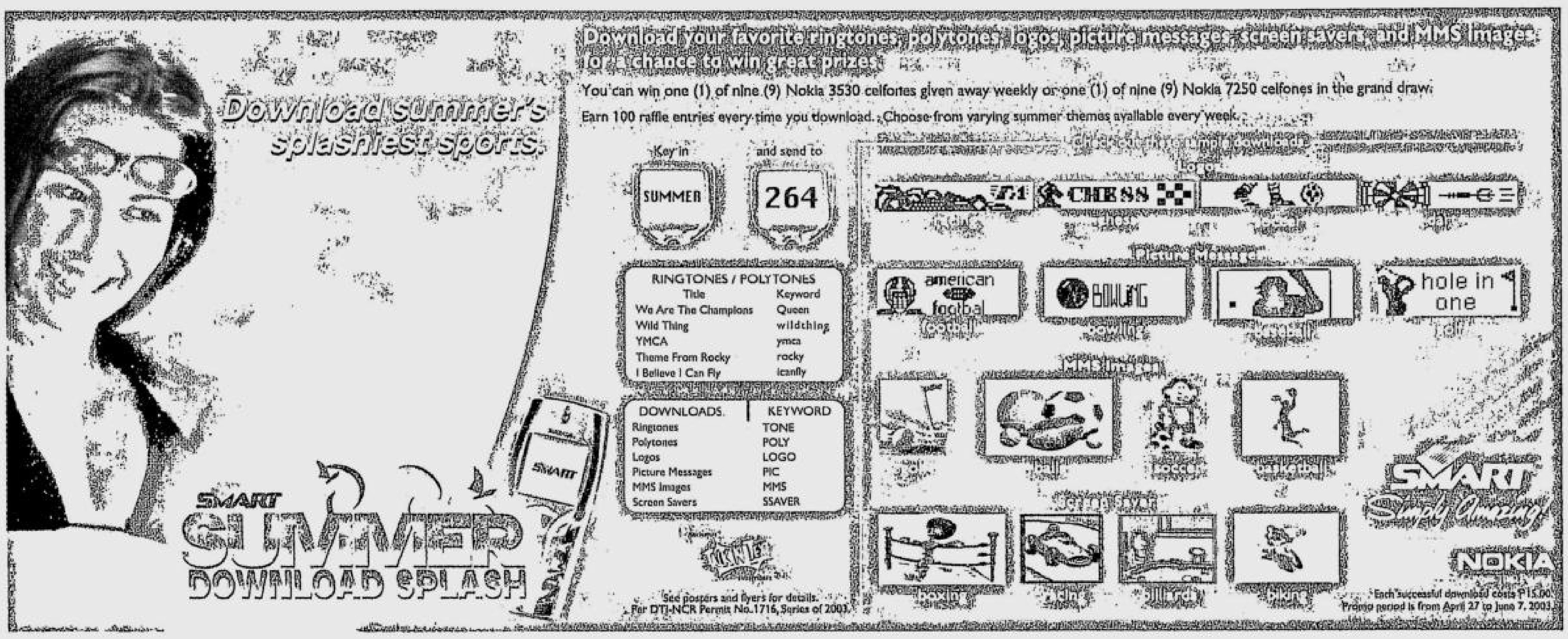
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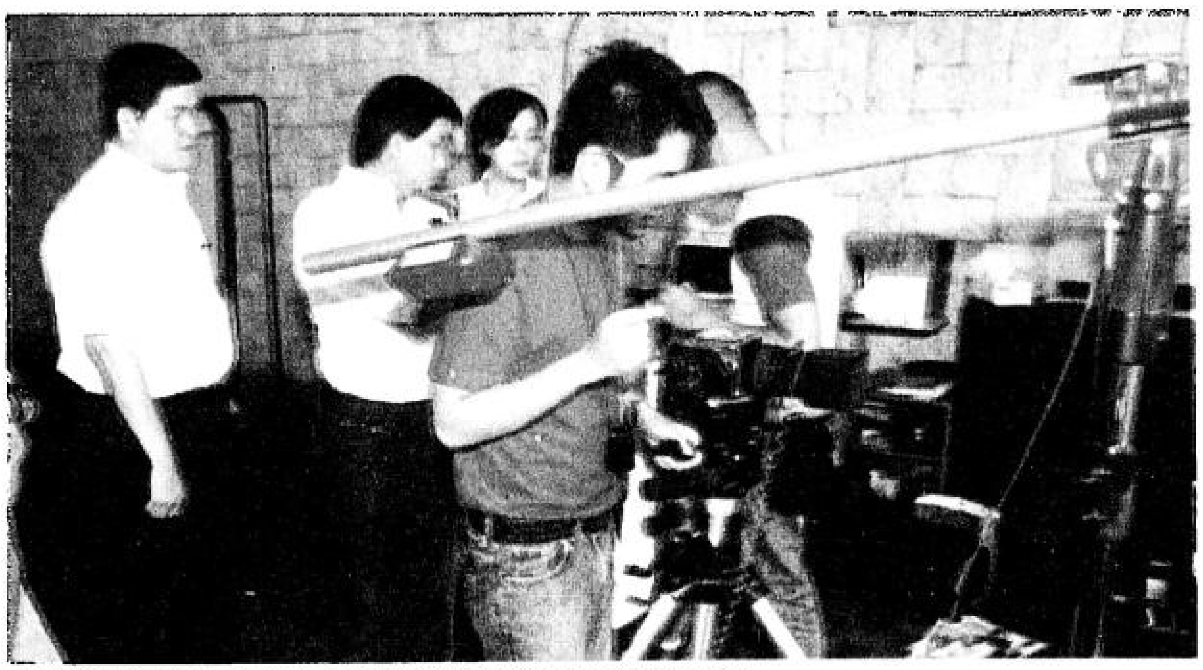


BENCHMARK. Bench main man Ben Chan (left) oversees the shoot.

Rosa Rosal is now ready for her close-up with Lucy Torres-Gomez

LIVING DOLLS. Top makeup artist Juan Sarte primps Rosal (above) and Torres-Gomez (below).

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

DON'T be surprised to find Rosa Rosal wearing denims on billboards along Edsa. The energetic septuagenarian is one of the new Bench endorsers.

For the four-part "Bench Is Forever" campaign, Rosal joins society and cultural icons Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Mary Prieto and Rep. Teddy Boy Locsin in another pioneering marketing campaign by Bench's dynamic honcho Ben Chan.

"It was fun!" says the ebullient Rosal, who posed with alabaster beauty Lucy Torres-Gomez for her segment of the campaign.

Unknown to many, Rosal and Torres-Gomez have worked closely together in several Red Cross missions long before the Bench project came about. It was actually the latter who convinced Rosal to sign up with Bench.

"It wasn't hard to say yes because I would be working with Lucy, whom I admire so much," says Rosal.

She admits she's "grooming" the younger woman to take over what she's doing with the Red Cross "because I can see that she has the heart for it."

What clinched the deal, however, was her seeing the recent Bench "Wisdom" billboard campaign Torres-Gomez did with her mother, Julie.

"Bench's idea is relevant to the times," Rosal says of "Wisdom." "Children now don't seem to appreciate their parents… 'Forever' is also about bringing families together."

Torres-Gomez is equally profuse with praises for the Red Cross governor.

"Tita Rose has the heart," she says in a phone interview. "What you see on-cam is consistent with what she is off-cam. I feel very honored to work with her."

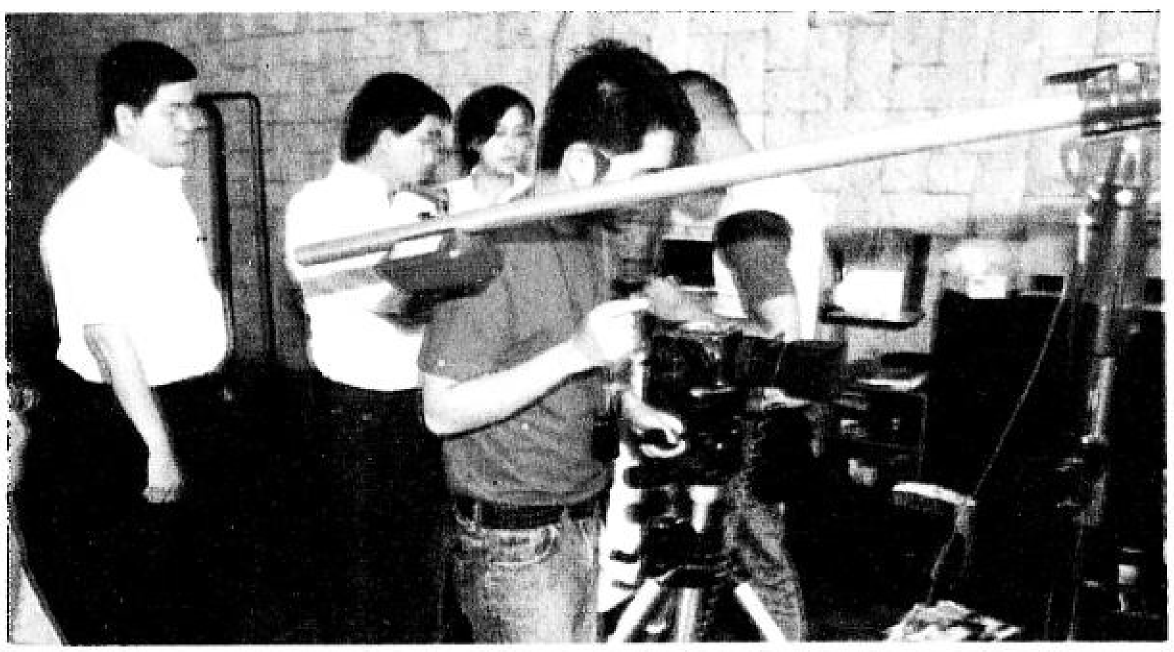
While some local brands have used real people and senior citizens in ad campaigns, Bench claims it didn't jump on the bandwagon. "Wisdom," according to Bench, was actually the precursor of similar ads.

"Forever's" idea is to bridge the generations of the Bench market. It shows the brand has grown to cater to every age segment—from Torres' two-year-old Juliana to seventysomethings like Rosal.

FOREVER LOVELY. "I feel like I have a second mom," Torres-Gomez says of Rosal.

The Red Cross conspirators will soon be seen in new generation-bridging Bench ads

IT'S A WRAP! Photographer Ronnie Salvacion takes a snapshot of the Bench t



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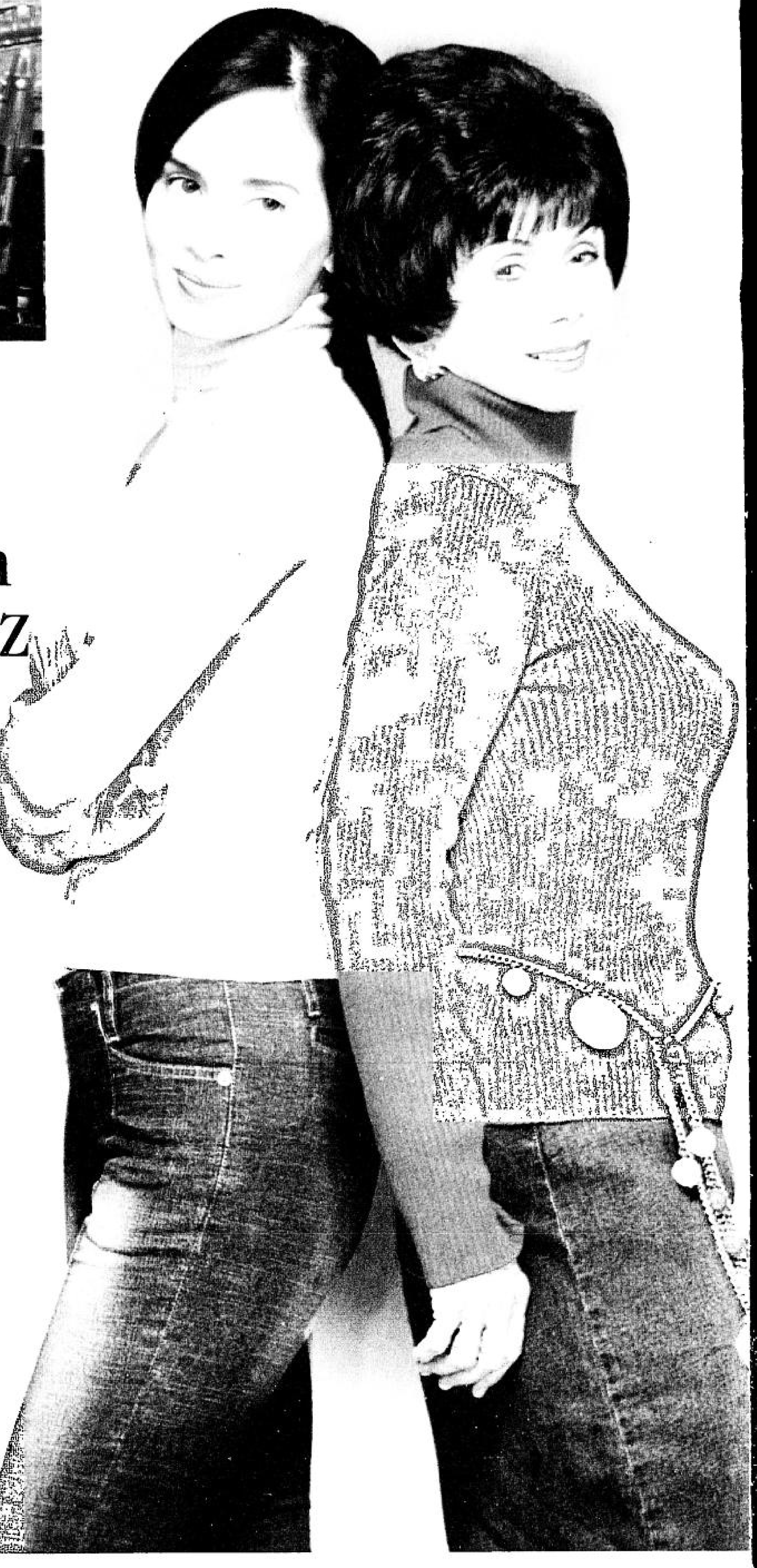

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PRETTY BABY. "It was Tita Rose who introduced me to my OB-Gyne before I got pregnant," shares Torres-Gomez, who is seen here with daughter Juliana in between takes.

The campaign will show the forever-hip Cordero-Fernando—with Jon Hall and Robby Mananquil in their undies. Boys-next-door (though generations apart) Locsin and John Prats pose together.

Style icon Prieto now graces glossies with would-be counterpart Shaina Magdayao. And Rosal will be seen in hip poses with Torres-Gomez wearing denim skirts and jeans.

Beauty and magnanimity

Though both beautiful, Rosal and Torres-Gomez are, however, as different as night and day.

The older woman is a people-person, which aids her charitable works. She is feisty and quite vocal about her opinions: on family ("First priority, I always tell Lucy"), annulment ("Divorce is even better because it doesn't eliminate the ties"), premarital sex ("I was a virgin when I got married") and even death ("I'm on the exit zone; I talk about death like I'm drinking my iced tea").

Torres-Gomez is admittedly shy. "Unlike Tita Rose, I wouldn't know how to approach company presidents to ask for donations. She has that 'talent.'"

"Richard [Gomez, Torres' husband] is very blessed with Lucy," Rosal says. "Not only is she beautiful outside, she's also really willing to help other people."

Torres-Gomez is delighted by the compliment, but demurs. "Right now," she says, "I can only do what little I can to help."

The 28-year-old intimates she is hoping to get pregnant again. "Tita Rose has done so much [for the Red Cross] and it would be hard to fill her shoes…"

Of the "Forever" shoot, Torres-Gomez says Rosal was fun to work with. "I told her I was envious of her figure. Did you see how good she still looked? And she's 71!"

The afternoon pictorial was made even easier with Rosal regaling the young mom with beauty secrets and the 22-inch waistline she had in her prime.

"I think it's a sin to neglect yourself," admits the jovial Rosal.

At 5'4" and less than 115 lbs, she proudly says her dress size is small.

"I am very disciplined… I can go up five floors on foot without panting—in high heels," she adds, laughing.

The Bench shoot was effortless for the '50s movie star. "Pose-pose *lang*," she says while making mock poses. "*Nakita niyo na? Maganda ba?*" she quickly asks.

Reassured, the always poised and coifed Rosal gushes about the blood-red (pardon the pun) ribbed turtleneck sweater she wore for the shoot.

"Oh, I just loved it!" she says, but is quick to say she's not keen on wearing hip-hugging jeans.

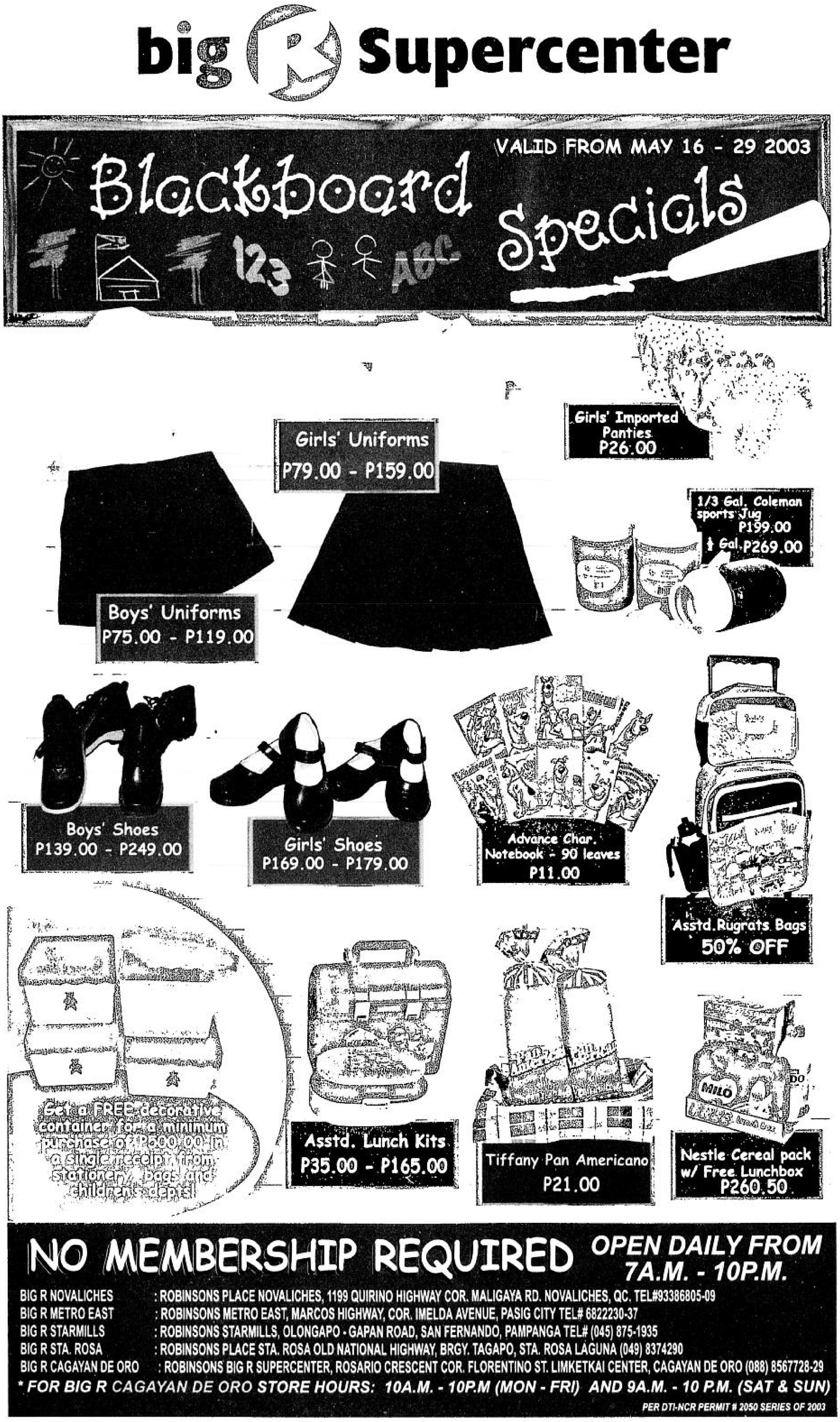
She's too old to show off her navel, she says emphatically. "*Di ba puro ganun na ngayon?*" she asks.

When told otherwise, she immediately asks to be sent a pair. "Dark, *ha*," she says.

Oh, well, we won't mind seeing her in blood-letting missions donning jeans.

[illegible] AND DENIM BLUE [illegible]

eam led by Chan with their 71-year-old model.



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Boys' Shoes
P139.00 - P249.00

Girls' Shoes
P169.00 - P179.00

Advance Char. Notebook - 90 leaves
P11.00

Asstd. Rugrats Bags
50% OFF

Get a FREE decorative container for a minimum purchase of P500.00 in a single receipt from stationery, bags and children's depts!

Asstd. Lunch Kits
P35.00 - P165.00

Tiffany Pan Americano
P21.00

Nestle Cereal pack w/ Free Lunchbox
P260.50

NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED OPEN DAILY FROM 7A.M. - 10P.M.

BIG R NOVALICHES	: ROBINSONS PLACE NOVALICHES, 1199 QUIRINO HIGHWAY COR. MALIGAYA RD. NOVALICHES, QC. TEL#93386805-09
BIG R METRO EAST	: ROBINSONS METRO EAST, MARCOS HIGHWAY, COR. IMELDA AVENUE, PASIG CITY TEL# 6822230-37
BIG R STARMILLS	: ROBINSONS STARMILLS, OLONGAPO - GAPAN ROAD, SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA TEL# (045) 875-1935
BIG R STA. ROSA	: ROBINSONS PLACE STA. ROSA OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, BRGY. TAGAPO, STA. ROSA LAGUNA (049) 8374290
BIG R CAGAYAN DE ORO	: ROBINSONS BIG R SUPERCENTER, ROSARIO CRESCENT COR. FLORENTINO ST. LIMKETKAI CENTER, CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8567728-29

* FOR BIG R CAGAYAN DE ORO STORE HOURS: 10A.M. - 10P.M (MON - FRI) AND 9A.M. - 10 P.M. (SAT & SUN)

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT # 2050 SERIES OF 2003

Watsons

YOUR PERSONAL STORE

AMAZING OFFERS AS LOW AS

₱69

MAY 5 - JUNE 1

Babyflo
Petroleum Jelly
200g
~~84^{75}~~
69

Ceelin
Syrup
250ml
~~172^{50}~~
169

Meiji
Chocolate Bar
50g (4's)
ONLY
69

Mr. Potato
3's
ONLY
69

Nutroplex
Iron w/ Lysine
250 ml
~~174^{00}~~
169

Koolfever
Cooling Gel
6 Sheets
~~179^{75}~~
169

Instant BBQ Grill
~~99^{75}~~
69

Knife Set
5pc
~~199^{75}~~
169

Borherding
2.8g
~~74^{75}~~
69

Blue Cross
Pregnancy Test Deluxe
~~79^{75}~~
69

Animal
Cushion
ONLY
169

Sorella
3pc.Ladies' Bikini
(Plain/Printed)
~~98^{75}~~
69

Biguerlai
Tea Can
7g
~~200^{00}~~
169

Finesse
Shampoo
300ml
~~209^{75}~~
169

Compact Hair Dryer
~~89^{75}~~
69

Hair Ornament Set
Assorted
~~99^{75}~~
69

Mirror
Assorted Shapes
ONLY
69

Tealights
In Bags
50's
ONLY
69

CD Rack
for 60 CD's
~~389^{75}~~
269

Kanebo
It be
Twinkle on
Powder
~~240^{00}~~
169

Ever Bilena
Japanese
Eyebrow Powder &
Japanese
Multicolor Stick
~~152^{00}~~
69

Lé Pias
Crystal Eyeshadow
Single
~~212^{75}~~
169

Wet n' Wild
Fruited Lip Pot
~~189^{75}~~
169

Aido
Teens Fashion 21
Mascara
~~98^{00}~~
69

Caring Colors
Dual Action Cake Refill
~~220^{00}~~
69

Lé Pias
Honey
Cake Soap
~~112^{75}~~
69

White Beauty
Facial Wash
Foam
100g
~~200^{00}~~
69

Dove
Cream Bar 100g (2's)
w/ FREE Soap
Dish
ONLY
69

Foot & Body Essence
Milk Body Lotion/ Soap
Assorted
500ml
BUY 1 TAKE 1
169

Foot & Body Essence
Milk Hand Wash
Soap
Assorted
500ml
ONLY
69

Kanebo
It be
Cleansing Wash
~~330^{00}~~
269

Mena
Cream 3g(5's) or
Stick 2g(3's)
ONLY
69

CY Gabriel
Special/
Medicated Soap
60g (6's)
~~82^{50}~~
69

Kanebo
Raphaie Esthe
Skin Lotion
~~$1,700^{00}$~~
1,369

Godiva
Green Tea
Sun Block
Cream
~~200^{00}~~
169

Jergens
Lotion 50ml
BUY 3 TAKE 1
ONLY
69

BOD
Trio Gift Set
~~399^{75}~~
369

Johnson's
Pure Essentials
Splash Cologne
100ml &
Body Powder
50g
ONLY
69

Flames
Splash
Cologne 90ml
Assorted
~~98^{00}~~
69

Chill
Spray 100ml
(Green &
Purple)
~~150^{00}~~
69

Angel's Breath
Promo Pack
Cologne 100ml
& Powder 50g
~~92^{50}~~
69

NEW
Foot &
Body Essence
Body/
Foot Powder
100ml
BUY 1 TAKE 1
ONLY
69

Sally Hansen
Corn & Callus
Remover
~~284^{75}~~
269

Sally Hansen
Foot Spray
w/ Tea Tree Oil
~~409^{75}~~
369

Puro
Toothbrush
8's
ONLY
69

Character
Travel Tissues
Assorted
100 Sheets
2-ply(7's)
ONLY
69

Pocket Tissue
Assorted
2-ply (30's)
~~118^{75}~~
69

NEW
She
Panty Liner
60 Pads/
Box
~~139^{00}~~
69

So Fresh
Maxi Regular 8's
BUY 3 TAKE 1
ONLY
69

Facial Tissues
Assorted
2-ply (3's)
280Sheets
~~120^{00}~~
69

Baby Flo
Baby Wipes
50's
~~98^{00}~~
69

Tickle Buds
400 Tips
(3's)
ONLY
69

Extra
Cotton Balls
150's (3's)
ONLY
69

Orita
Kitchen Towel
2 Rolls
~~99^{75}~~
69

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1135 Series of 2003

YOU FEEL GREAT WE FEEL GREAT · YOU LOOK GOOD WE LOOK GOOD · YOU HAVE FUN WE HAVE FUN

SM City Annex • SM Centerpoint • SM Mega A • SM Southmall • SM City Fairview • SM City Bacoor • SM City Iloilo • SM City Cebu • SM City Pampanga • SM City Manila • Festival Supermall • SM Supercenter • SM City Davao • The Podium • Marikina • SM City Cagayan De Oro • A. Mabini / P. Faura • SM City Bicutan • JY Square • All SM Department Stores